

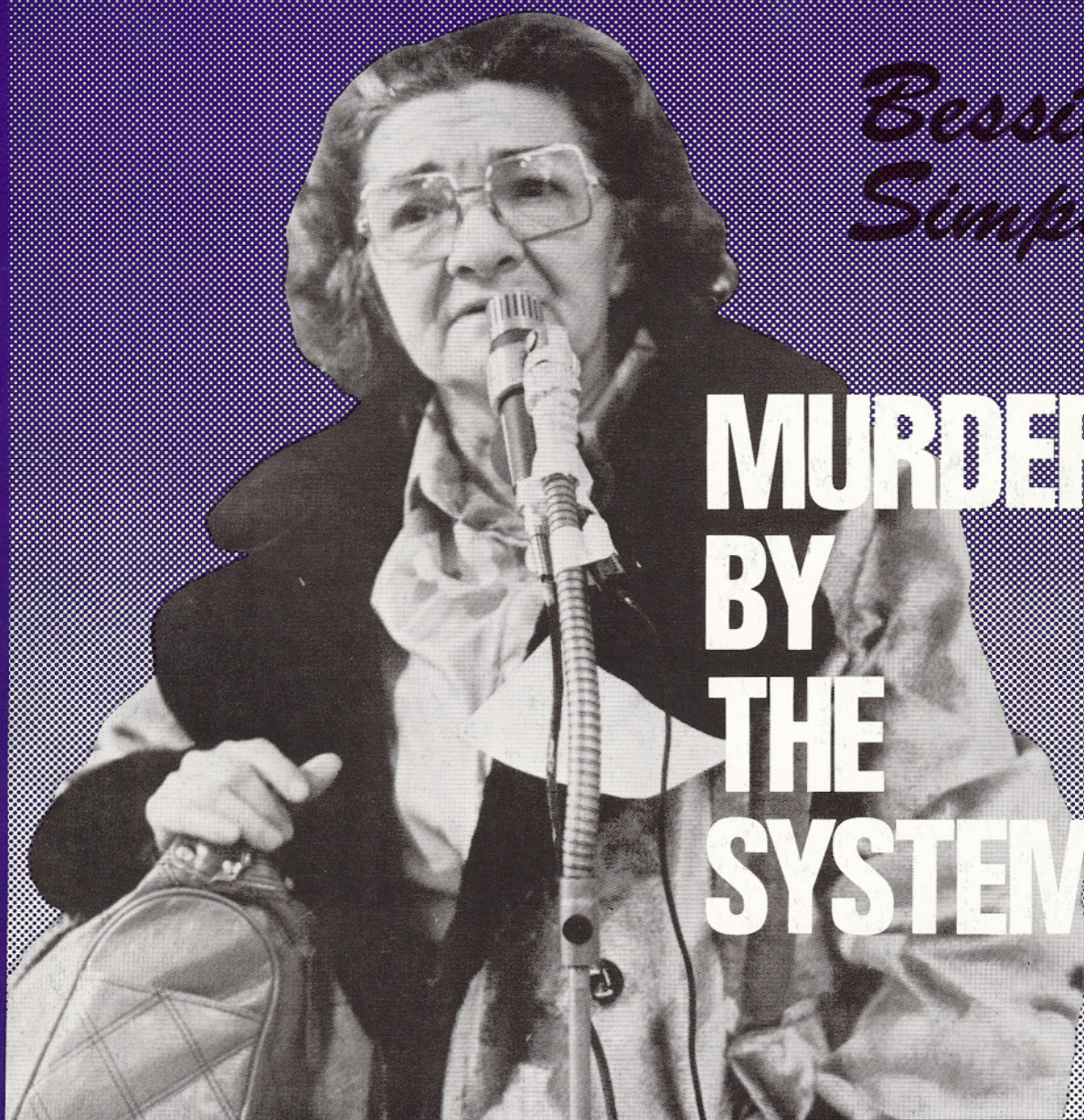
# KEEP STRONG

A Publication of the Intercommunal Survival Committee  
Vol. 2 No. 9 APRIL 1977 25 CENTS

- Elaine Brown Testifies in Chicago
- Brooklyn "People's Firehouse" Victory

*Bessie Simpson*

**MURDERED  
BY  
THE  
SYSTEM**





***In This Issue:***

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*Bessie Simpson*

**MURDERED  
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## *In This Issue*

1. On the cover: Bessie Simpson whose "murder by the system" raises many questions about human rights in this country. See Editorial, page 2 and On the Street, page 4.
2. After 14 months of slander against the Black Panther Party in the Fred Hampton murder trial, the Party, through the voice of its chairperson, Elaine Brown, finally had the opportunity to respond. See page 30.
3. Exclusive **KEEP STRONG** interview with independent mayoral candidate Harold Washington. See page 27.
4. The Each One Teach One program, an innovative "survival program for the minds of our youth," was recently initiated in Chicago. See page 22.
5. Following the reopening of the People's Firehouse in Brooklyn, N.Y., residents announced a community slate to run for the board of the Northside Community Development Council. Adam Veneski, the People's Fire Chief, is on this slate. See pages 17 and 18.



# How Many Must Die?

*The warm and generous woman on the cover is Bessie Simpson, member of the Chicago Area Black Lung Association and the Uptown Tenants Survival Union. The wife of a miner who died of black lung disease, she was waiting for approval of her widow's claim and had gone on public aid while she waited. Herself suffering from severe asthma, she had taken a letter from the doctor to public aid advising them that she should receive use of a breathing machine immediately as a "matter of life and death." She had already waited thirty days for public aid to authorize a breathing machine when, on March 5, she died, choking to death in the night.*

*While Carter is telling the world about his campaign for human rights in other countries, we would like to know where was the campaign for Bessie's human rights? And who is now investigating the cold-blooded murder of Bessie Simpson by the calculated unresponsiveness of a system whose policy is to grind poor people into the dust?*

*It appears to be convenient for those in power to refuse to acknowledge that we even exist. Bessie Simpson's death should serve to remind us of the hundreds of thousands, of the millions, of poor and working whites who are daily victimized by this system. Sometimes we think there are only a few whites who are truly poor, but more than half of the people on welfare in this country are white, and millions of those who are employed but make barely enough to live on are white. Sometimes we are not visible, even to ourselves, because we lack unity.*

*And partly it is our own fault. The narrow prejudices of so many poor white people have kept us from joining with our natural allies, in the black and latino communities. The unity which black people have forged from being for centuries the victims of cruel prejudice, should be a lesson for us to learn from and a force to join with. Isolated, we will continue to die, robbed of years of our lives, by daily injustices. Let Bessie Simpson, with her generous nature, her understanding of the small-mindedness of racism, her fighting spirit and her death that came too many years too soon, remind us that we exist in our millions and have the power to change the conditions that oppress us, if we organize and use it. □*





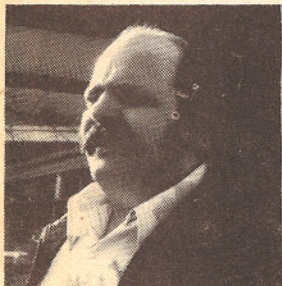
Bessie Simpson



# ON THE STREET

**"DO YOU THINK CARTER'S CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD IS SINCERE CONSIDERING THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS HERE AT HOME?"**

**Frank Bates**  
N. Magnolia



"I don't know if he opposes human rights in the U.S., but I think that it's really a lot of crap about our policy being formed by what 'we', America stands for. As far as foreign policy goes, it's all under the table. I don't think any president or anybody ever will bring that stuff out in the open to the American people. As far as the rights of people in the States, believe me, I just went through the criminal justice system, and a lot of Black people say, 'Oh I'm in jail because I'm Black.' It's not Black and White. It's poor folk and rich folk. I just maxed out of a one to two on a breaking and entering that should have been six months or probation or something, not because I'm Black, because I'm not. It's because I'm poor."

**Red**  
N. Magnolia



"No, because he should protect the people's rights here. I don't think he is because I don't see no kind of progress. I don't see nothing happening. He's made promises and promises to the people."



**Virginia Addison**  
N. Sheridan

"I'll tell you what I think he is — A 1977 PLANTATION OWNER."

**Joseph Stansbery**  
N. Sheridan



"No, he isn't doing his job. He's supposed to be the president. He said he was going to open up jobs. He won't even open up jobs for young people. They've got to go out here and steal to get their money and everything. That's not fair. If he's going to be president, he said, he's going to open up 500 jobs. There isn't a job open. I've been looking for four weeks almost and can't find a job."



**Sandee**  
N. Malden

"Carter's for himself. That's all I have to say. He hasn't done nothing for any of the people that I see. Look at this place."



Connie Revels  
N. Sheridan



**"What you say, and what you do is two different things. See what I mean? Telling you I'm going to do something and doing it for you — why should I tell you if I'm not going to do it?"**

Star-hu  
N. Clifton



**"People are going through changes. People are still hungry. People are still getting cut off of welfare, and they're not doing what they're supposed to do, basically. I mean, a lot is to be desired. I heard a rumor this morning they're gonna cut people off because they don't speak English — off of welfare! I never heard of such a thing. People work everyday and contribute to this thing. This is an ethnic country. This country wasn't just for one or two peoples. These are things that are wrong. There's a lot to be done, a lot to be desired. The neighborhood needs to be cleaned up. There's a lot of jobs to be done. But as far as where he should be carrying the banner — charity starts at home and then spreads abroad."**

Glenn Charlton  
N. Clark



**"No, I don't; even though I don't believe that the Soviet system is the best. I don't think that Carter has any right to interfere with their problem of dissidents when there's so many problems with struggles in this country that he completely ignores and even makes attempts to destroy."**



Paul Torres  
Wilson Ave.

**"No, I don't believe that. He doesn't consider a human being as a human being, especially when you're poor and when you're broke and you don't have any money. He's only for the guy that collects the rent. That's all he's in for, for the money; he's not in to help anybody."**

Jeanette Zwarton  
Cleveland, Ohio



**"No, I don't, because I don't feel any of them has ever been really truthful. Carter's just as bad as the rest of them. They wanted to get in. They got their votes, their in, and now they just do what they want to do and to hell with everyone else."**



# WELFARE RIGHTS

## *The Social Security Treadmill*

(Chicago, Ill.) Mae Pederson will be 74 years old this month. She worked at two jobs until 1973 when she started receiving social security retirement benefits. She had to continue working on and off since then simply to make ends meet because the social security checks alone are not enough to survive on.

In April, 1975 Ms. Pederson turned 72. According to social security regulations a person who has been working can receive social security after turning 65. If he or she makes less than \$250 a month the benefits shouldn't be affected. When someone turns 72 and continues to work it doesn't matter how much that person makes — full benefits must still be paid.

However, in November, 1975 Ms. Pederson received a notice from Social Security claiming she had been overpaid because she was working and that she owed them \$1752. Although Ms. Pederson claims she made less than \$250 a month between the time she got on social security in 1973 and the time she turned 72 in early 1975, her checks were stopped for eight months until the money Social Security claimed she owed was paid back.

In July, 1976 Ms. Pederson began to get her checks again. They said that once again she owed them money. Mae wrote them immediately and asked for an arrangement whereby they would withhold less money over a longer period of time. She received no reply, wrote again and called numerous times. But, as she said, "Every time I asked for an answer, they either refused to give me their name, or they hung up."

Instead of an answer, Mae got another letter stating that she owed them \$519.40 and that they were stopping her checks completely until this money was paid back. Ms. Pederson has been forced to move to a smaller apartment because she can't afford the rent. At this point legal workers from the Uptown People's Community Service Center are working on the case, and an interview has been set up with Social Security.

In some ways Mae Pederson considers herself lucky. Even with all the injustice and inhumanity



Mae Pederson—just trying to get her fair share.

shown to her by Social Security, she has been able to survive because she has her health and can still work some. She is determined to fight for her rights and not be pushed into an old people's home, like some of her friends have been. There are hundreds of thousands of senior citizens who, after working their whole lives, are unable to do so anymore and must depend totally on their retirement benefits. In most cases, this is simply not enough money for a person to survive on by themselves, so they are forced into old people's homes, which Ms. Pederson terms "tombs, just waiting for people to die." The owners of these places receive the social security checks and don't give the recipients a penny. "They lock the doors, take away false teeth and any sense of dignity, feed them starchy food much of which they can't chew without their teeth." Ms. Pederson has worked in these places and says, "They go in there smiling and talking and within a few days have lost their desire to live." □

## *The SSI Catch 22*

(Chicago, Ill.) Johnny King is 26 years old and legally blind. He has been receiving social



security disability to support his wife and himself. In late November his monthly SSI allotment was raised \$10. One month later the amount he had to pay for food stamps was raised \$11.

Johnny said that when he called welfare to find out why the amount he had to pay for food stamps was raised, they told him he was getting too much money to pay any less for his stamps. "I'm suppose to pay \$50 for \$92 worth of stamps. After I get my SSI check and pay my rent I only have \$17 left. Where am I supposed to get the rest of the money to buy my food stamps?"

According to the welfare department, a family of two is supposed to receive \$210 a month to live on. Betty King has applied for welfare in order to help support her husband and herself. She says she has been applying for some time now, and each time she goes there the welfare department tells her to get a job. "They told me I should find a job. I told them I would if they could find someone to take care of my husband."

One friend of the family commented; "It seems like welfare doesn't want you to survive. If you pay the rent, you can't buy food, or if you buy the food stamps, you can't pay the rent."□

## Waiting To Death

(Milw., Wisc.) Marcella Majchrzak lives with her husband in their own home on the southside of Milwaukee. Mr. Majchrzak has Parkinson's Disease and emphysema. In November, 1976 he applied for social security disability benefits but wasn't approved until February, 1977. Since his retirement, the Majchrzak's have lived off of their life savings and a small pension.

When Mrs. Majchrzak was informed that she was eligible for food stamps, a medical card and general relief, she had many hesitations about getting on aid because she would have to pay the money back and turn their modest home over to the county. Nevertheless, on March 4 Mrs. Majchrzak went to the welfare office at 15th and National. She was given an application and told to wait. After four hours a worker from the welfare office told her and all those in the waiting room they would have to come back. It was discovered then that she was given the wrong application and told that it was the welfare department's policy to see "walk-in" applicants last. After she was given an appointment for two

weeks later on March 18, Mrs. Majchrzak returned home to her sick husband with no money, medical card or food stamps.

Mrs. Majchrzak returned March 18 for her 1:00 p.m. appointment. At 3:00 p.m., two hours later, she asked when she would be seen, and a supervisor told her she wouldn't be seen and gave her a 7:45 a.m. appointment for March 21. On March 21 Mrs. Majchrzak went again, arriving at 7:45 a.m. She wasn't called 'til after 9:00 a.m. Her application (23 pages of computer questions—a life history) was in order. But the worker informed Mrs. Majchrzak that she needed proof of her husband's pension, utility bill, and a letter from a doctor saying she couldn't work because she is needed to take care of her husband. Most of these items were not mentioned on the sheet the welfare office publishes as documents to bring with you.



Marcella Majchrzak—a typical case of abuse by the welfare department.

Mrs. Majchrzak returned March 24 with these documents. Meanwhile her application is not being processed. It will take another three weeks before she will get any help, making it over a month and a half since Mrs. Majchrzak first came in to apply. Welfare Rights workers have noted that this is not an extreme case but that most people get this kind of abuse.□



# TENANTS' RIGHTS

## Tenants Demand A Decent Place To Live

(Chicago, Ill.) "I don't expect a fancy apartment for \$155 a month; I just want a decent place to live in." With these words, Bessie Stapleton of 1361-67 W. Sunnyside/4453-55 N. Dover summarized the latest fight to maintain low-income housing in the Truman College Development area. The building has a recent history which is like that of many other buildings in the neighborhood. Every year for the last four, someone new has come along claiming to be the owner. The last claimant, a retired policeman, is now doing jail time on fraud charges. Although the building has been in and out of building court, the city has never made any attempt to inform any of the 20 families who live there of the status of the court case for building code compliance. The complaints run the normal range of every other slum in the city. Roaches and other insects

run free while no real attempt is made to exterminate regularly. Many tenants have offered to split the cost of paint and do the work themselves. The present landlords have refused to discuss it, saying they have no money for that. Doors and window frames are warped preventing both sufficient ventilation and lawful egress (methods to exit) in case of fire. In many apartments the interior walls have started to crumble, while the owners have refused to put out any money for replacement plasterboard. The rear porches have not been adequately repaired, and the lack of good downspouts means any rainfall will bring water directly through the ceiling of the second and third floor tenants.

While these conditions have never been acceptable they were tolerable until the Marcel Realty Company, which claims to have bought the building in July of 1976, began circulating a rental agreement last February, requiring that the tenants sign it if they wanted to remain in the building. The agreement reads like it was written by some law students from the University of Mars and includes the following points:

A. All rents seven days past due shall be considered a forfeiture by the tenant, and all rights to the apartment are automatically returned to the building management. Any contents left in the apartment after seven days past due period, revert to management as liquidation damages.

B. Tenant is subject to automatic eviction if rent is seven days past due, tenant persists in destroying building property, or creates a hazard which can be considered harmful to himself and his neighbor.

C. All rules of the management must be observed to maintain a healthy and livable environment. If they are not, then the tenant is subject to automatic eviction by management.

As a result of this outrageous document, certain tenants in cooperation with the Uptown Tenants Survival Union began an investigation of the Marcel Realty Company and its claim as the lawful owner. Marcel Realty is essentially Marcelino Esquerra who bought the building in his own name from Walter Satter in June, 1976 for \$110,000. While he appears to be an honest man, he says he has invested \$10,000 (50% in repairs) since taking over the building. He also claims that he only collects \$800 a month regularly in rents and has no money at this time to put into the building. That would mean that only five out of twenty tenants are regularly



The Olmstead children hold the wood that has rotted off their front door.



## HEALTH NEWS

### *Institutional Neglect Or Murder?*

(Chicago, Ill.) Bobby Spurgeon, the seven month old infant son of Donna Spurgeon, died last month. Although "officially" he died of bronchial pneumonia, in reality he was the tragic victim of neglect by the institutions of Uptown.

Bobby Spurgeon had a serious respiratory problem since birth which required that he have a trachea inserted into his windpipe through his neck to breathe through. Consequently, the baby would breathe through the trachea instead of through his mouth and nose. The child required constant attention and special machinery to keep him healthy. Bobby's health was improving steadily, and Donna had been told that before too long the trachea could be removed, and her son could live a normal life.

On Saturday, March 26, Donna's father was babysitting for the baby. He had been trained to handle Bobby's special needs. While he was changing the baby's pampers, the trachea came out of the child's throat for no apparent reason. Donna had been assured by her doctor that this would never happen, but if it did, not to worry because her child could breathe at least 15 minutes on his own which should be sufficient time to get him help. The child's grandfather tried unsuccessfully to put the trachea back in and then started giving him artificial respiration through his neck, simultaneously pressing on his heart to keep it beating. A neighbor called the emergency police number for an ambulance. The ambulance had to be called twice before it arrived. Bobby was alive and breathing with the help of artificial respiration when the ambulance finally came at least 15 minutes later. The ambulance attendants started giving the baby artificial respiration through his mouth which did no good because the air would come right back out the hole in his throat. Neither of the attendants were trained to handle such an emergency. They also refused to take the child to Children's Memorial Hospital where he had been treated before and where the proper special machinery is readily available. Instead they insisted on taking the child to Weiss Memorial Hospital which had none of the necessary equipment.



A leak in the ceiling and exposed wiring from a broken light fixture are some of the glaring violations of safe housing conditions to be found in the Johnson's home.

paying the rents. Mr. Esquerra views the property as an investment — a matter of dollars and cents only. His first concern is whatever will bring the largest return. He explained that his intention upon buying the building was to turn it into a condominium.

The tenants, on the other hand, view Esquerra as just another landlord, no different from the last three or four, who took their money but refused to take an interest in their common problem. They point to the fact that they have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in rent over the last five years, and they have yet to see the first dollar come back in real repairs. No amount of small talk can erase that fact. The tenants feel that without this understanding there can be no cooperation. Many of them have ended up here as a result of a number of previous homes being destroyed. They are determined to stay and fight and work together to do what is necessary to make the building a good place to live in. □

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***"We want decent housing fit for the shelter of human beings."***

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Bobby Spurgeon's tragic death was unnecessary, and the circumstances surrounding it are troublesome.

When they got to the hospital, the child was grabbed out of his grandfather's arms who was pushed into the waiting room. About ten minutes later the doctor came out and said the baby had died. The child's neck had been bleeding because of the trachea coming out, and the grandfather had blood on his mouth from administering artificial respiration. The hospital officials questioned him as to whether he had abused the child.

Donna, after much trouble, managed to get to the hospital in a police car. When she got there, her father told her that her child had died. No doctor ever came out to speak to Donna about what had happened or explain anything to her. She was allowed to see her son for about two minutes, and then the child was taken to Cook County Morgue. As if all that wasn't enough, Donna was called twice in the middle of that night by the coroner inquiring why her child's neck was cut.

The questions raised by this baby's untimely death and the circumstances surrounding it are troublesome. Why did it take the ambulance so long to come? Why aren't ambulance attendants better trained? Why don't ambulance attendants know where to take patients who are in life or death situations requiring specialized treatment? Or don't the ambulance companies care? Shouldn't hospital emergency room procedures include

simple compassion for their patients and their families? Or do they have something to hide?

Donna Spurgeon receives money from public aid to support herself and her family. She also receives medical aid and has a green card. Ambulance companies have recently been instructed by public aid that in order to receive reimbursement for services to welfare recipients they have to go to the nearest hospital in case of emergencies. They also require that they be informed first and approve an emergency before an ambulance picks someone up. If an emergency occurs after office hours ambulance companies must make the decision themselves, but the welfare department reserves the right to refuse payment if they decide that the situation was not an emergency. Could this have been a factor in the fire department's ambulance arriving so late or did they just figure an emergency in Uptown couldn't be so important anyway?

Bobby Spurgeon was an infant with a medical problem that he could not control. Living in an American city that has vast resources and advanced technology, he should have been able to outgrow his birth defect, to flourish and live a full life span. His life, however, was cut short, as abruptly as if someone had shot him through the heart. □

## **POLICE WATCH**

### ***"Next Time They'll Break My Leg"***

(Chicago, Ill.) On March 20, 1977 June Blalock and three of her friends were shopping in a store on Wilson Ave. and Sheridan Rd. in the Uptown community. When an argument broke out in the store police were summoned. They pulled June and her friends in a gruff manner and roughed up the men who were with her, both of whom were Black. The police kicked and beat them although they had displayed no resistance. When June demanded to know why she and her friends had been singled out by the police, one officer responded, "Because you're with a nigger."

At the 23rd district police station things got worse. June wanted to know what she was being charged with and why she was being arrested. The response she got to her question was more





As a result of a beating by police June Blalock suffered a sprained knee.

violence. She was thrown to the ground and kicked and beaten. Finally she was handcuffed to a radiator where she stayed until she was released several hours later. She was charged with disorderly conduct.

As a result of this treatment by the police, June suffered a sprained knee as well as severe bruises on her legs and arms. She intends to file a complaint with the Office of Professional Standards. "If I don't do anything now, next time they'll break my leg instead of my knee." □

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

### **Illinois Prison Voices**

*During the last month KEEP STRONG has received numerous letters describing specific conditions in prisons throughout Illinois. Below are excerpts reprinted for both the benefit of our readers and the brothers and sisters incarcerated who have a basic right to human conditions. In*

*hopes that such revelations will encourage positive action, these excerpts appear below.*

(Joliet, Ill.) "I am writing this in hopes of bringing some more of the problems to light which we face here at Stateville Prison. To start with I got here December 10, 1976 and was taken to what is called orientation. I was there for one week. The first day there we were given a shower in cold water. There was no hot water. If you take a cup of water and tip it very slow to see the very light stream of water come from the cup, then you'll see the kind of shower I got. I left orientation December 16 and was put in F cellhouse. Since that time I have not had a shower. On March 10 (which is not very far off) it will be three months (90 days) since me and my two cellies have had a shower.

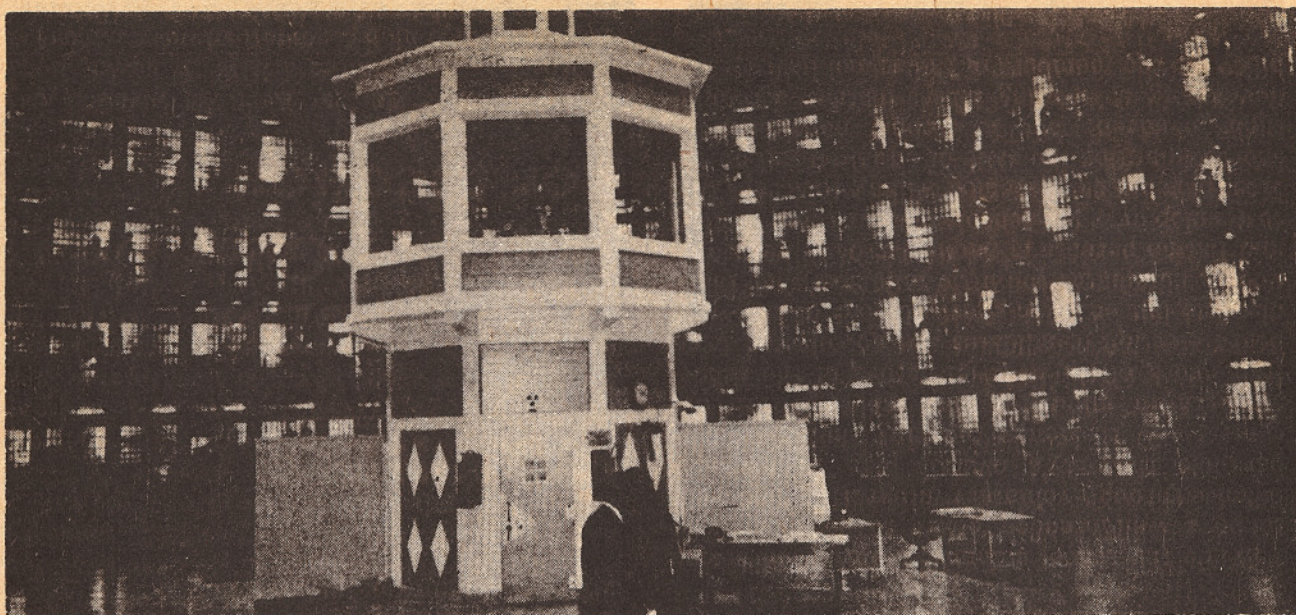
"Now for our cell. There are three men living in most cells. You might be lucky enough to get a cell with just you and one other man in it. The odds of that happening is maybe 5 out of 1,000. There are four galleries to a cellhouse, with 62 cells to a gallery and anywhere from 100 to 200 men to a gallery. The cells are six feet wide and about 11 feet long. In these cells are three beds stacked on top of each other, one dresser, a sink and a toilet. Three men are forced to live in this little room.

"I was mailed some crossword puzzles from a friend on February 15. I got them on February 23. My mother got me a radio February 6 from a store in Rockford, but since a radio has to come from the store, she had the store send it. Here it is almost February 27 — three weeks later — and I still haven't got my radio. Also on February 7 she sent some family pictures which at this time I have not got. All of this adds up, and the way I see it, it's just another way for harassment."

(Marion, Ill.) "In the 28 months that I have been confined to this control unit (at the federal penitentiary in Marion, Illinois), I have been subjected to the lowest form of treatment that can be imposed by one individual on another. If there is any good in this method of human punishment it is yet to be found, and this proves such programs to be one of this nation's biggest mistakes. As far as moral teachings are concerned, America today is like a man's body that is quickly deteriorating from arthritis, and one of the bones that needs mending in this man is the behavior modification programs in our society.

"Very few people have entered this control unit and left without undergoing drastic changes





At Stateville "there are three men living in most cells. You might be lucky enough to get a cell with just you and one other man in it. The odds of that happening is maybe 5 out of 1,000."

in their personalities. Individuals with warm and pleasant personalities have come in, and when they left it seemed like they had been cast into a shell that made it almost impossible for them to communicate with anyone. The conditions are so adverse to human nature that if an individual comes to the control program with an entirely rebellious attitude, the chances are nine out of ten that his mind will deteriorate until he is driven into complete insanity.

"Prisoners are kept in their individual cells 23½ hours a day. An individual can remain in these holes anywhere from one to six years at a time, although it is rare. One prisoner left in the early part of 1976 after having spent six consecutive years inside the control unit here at Marion, Illinois. Each time a prisoner leaves his cell he must be handcuffed through his tray slot, and refusal to comply with this procedure will most often result in the prisoner being attacked and beaten by several guards. The worst cells in Marion's long term control unit are called boxcars. These cells have two doors, one made of solid steel that cuts off all sound and light. Once a prisoner is placed inside these boxcars he is deprived of all his personal property and may be placed on a bag lunch diet which consists of one container of milk (½ pint) per day and a bologna or cheese sandwich at the serving of each regular meal. Some individuals have been known to lose 20 lbs. in two weeks after being placed on this diet.

"If a prisoner is lucky enough he may be

furnished with a few elementary work books in such subjects as math, spelling and English, but any G.E.D. or college courses that may give the individual educational credit must be paid for. Despite the long hours that prisoners must spend confined to their cells, the only arts and crafts that are offered to us are giant coloring books called Doodle Arts.

"The entire program here is geared toward taking physical things away from the individual so that he will be forced to live in deprivation of all the necessities of life, hereby making it easier for officials to manipulate prisoners by using material items as rewards for good behavior. It would be a fallacy to call these behavior modification programs rehabilitative because the prisoners in these programs are constantly being conditioned to be dependent upon guards for all their needs. The administration constantly discourages us from doing anything for ourselves such as washing our own underwear and decorating the walls of our cells.

"There is no question that taxpayers would protest their tax dollars being used for such a useless form of inhuman torture if they could but conceive of the misery experienced by individuals confined to these control units, but as one prisoner puts it, 'Living in the control unit is impossible for a free person to understand. The only way is to go into your bathroom, lock the door, lie down in the bathtub and stay there for three years.' "□



# **EDUCATION**

## ***Desegregation Plan Ignites Racist Fire***

(Milwaukee, Wisc.) In his third major decision in less than 18 months, U.S. District Judge John Reynolds has specified the required racial composition and timetable for Milwaukee school integration and approved a plan submitted by the school administration to rearrange enrollment in line with the quotas and timetable. The court order is the result of a 12-year old lawsuit which contended that the school board purposefully developed two separate and unequal school systems within the city — one for Black and Latino children and one for White children. The March 11 court order requires that two-thirds of the schools have 25-50% Black enrollments by September, 1977 and that two-thirds of the schools have teaching staffs which are 11-21% Black by September, 1978.

While the school administration's plan seems to be a well-intended effort to achieve racial balance through voluntary integration, it closely parallels the city's overall plan to disperse central city residents, reducing their potential strength in numbers. This move, within the framework of the at-large nature of the school board election (candidates are not elected from districts but on the highest number of city-wide votes), eliminates the little influence that Black and Latino parents in particular have been able to develop over the schools in their communities. Most parents have seemed willing to accept this shortcoming for the sake of equal education for their children, but a strong movement is developing demanding direct district accountability for the members of the school board.

Probably the most widespread effect of the federally-ordered desegregation has been the angry and vocal reaction of White parents throughout the city. Led by the eight person segregationist majority of the school board, thousands of White parents and non-parents have met privately and publicly to express their opposition to the desegregation of the schools. While this is voiced mostly as opposition to busing, many see the busing question as an excuse rather than the main issue. Much of the opposition is based in the new suburban townships, which under state law 220 are required to accept a small number of inner city

Black youth into their school systems by September, 1977. In fact, the chief opponent of school integration is school board member Anthony Bussalachi who lives in the city but earned his living as a suburban school teacher. Thus far, the majority faction in the school board has focused its opposition on an appeal of Judge Reynold's order which is pending in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, a last ditch effort to have the integration order reversed.

In early March a group calling itself "Concerned Citizens for Freedom and Justice" surfaced on Milwaukee's southside. Spokesmen for the group say it was formed to oppose busing. The month of March has also seen an intensification of anti-busing campaign rhetoric as the April 5 school board election draws near. Twelve candidates are campaigning for six seats in the election which promises to strengthen or destroy the segregationists' majority. The true nature of the segregationists' position was underscored at a recent community forum when candidate Lawrence O'Neil referred to busing as "heading down the road to socialism," and incumbent Edward Michalski stated, "Milwaukee cannot afford the luxury of integration." □

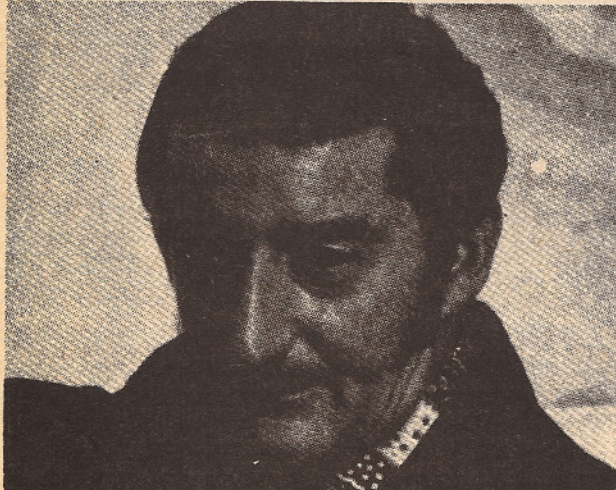
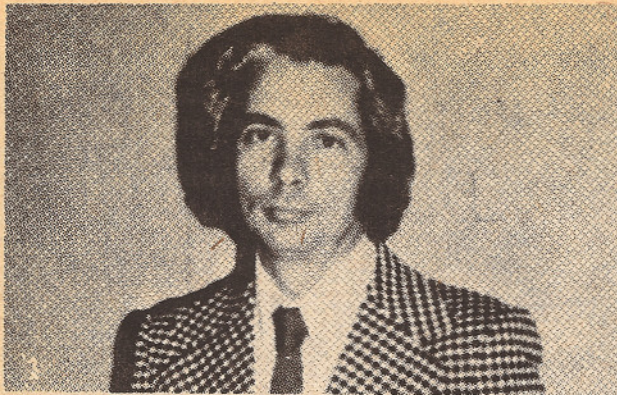
## **RANK'N FILE**

### ***United IBEW Workers Gear Up For Election***

(Chicago, Ill.) As the April 24 election day approaches, the United IBEW Workers Local 1031 has added nine candidates for the executive board to its slate of six progressive candidates for union offices. Enthusiasm among the rank and file has grown significantly as the progressive campaign challenge has become more and more visible. Hope has been stirred in the union local that democracy can be brought back to the union after former Business Manager-President Maurice Perlin resigned last November.

Although they are fighting an uphill battle, rank and file caucus members are optimistic. "People have been calling the caucus because they can't get help from the union. We have a lot of support, and if the vote on April 24 was





United IBEW worker candidates: (top to bottom) Neil Burke for President, Everett Biegalski for Business Manager, Chester Smith for Vice President, Genevieve Fields (not pictured) for Recording Secretary, Esther Morales for Financial Secretary (bottom left) and Tom Gresham for Treasurer (bottom right.)

conducted in the plants, we would win by a landslide." The union knows this and has taken certain steps to ensure a low-vote turnout.

The election board, which is appointed by the union business manager, makes the guidelines for elections. They have selected the International Tower building located near O'Hare International Airport as the voting place for everyone who works within a 20 mile radius. This includes everyone who works in Chicago, the vast majority of union members. Most of these workers live farther away than their place of work, and some will have to travel as far as 40 miles to vote on April 24—a Sunday. Members have suggested that the election be held on a work day at any number of different plants which are located in clusters. This, they point out, would lighten the burden of traveling long distances, significantly, on their day off. The election board has rejected any changes.

The union, which considers the Latino membership substantial enough to print its newspaper in English and Spanish, has refused to print voting instructions on the ballots in Spanish. Many of the plants in local 1031 located in Chicago have a majority Latino work force.

Caucus members further point out that several underhanded tactics have been used to discredit or harass the progressive campaign. Rumors, they say, have been spread, and candidates have been harassed on the job. In addition, the current business-manager has free access to any plant at any time. He has used this opportunity to campaign for himself and the current union leadership. The rank and file slate, however, has had its access to the plants limited. They can only campaign from the outside, and in order to get the time to do any campaigning face to face they have been forced to take their vacation time now. □

## Workers Take On Union & Company

(Chicago, Ill.) Intercraft Industry Corp. has been making picture frames for 40 years. They have three plants in the Chicago area and employ over 1000 workers. Picture Frame and Molding Workers Local 18B has been representing the workers of Intercraft for as long as the company has been in existence, and up until this year, there has not been one strike or labor dispute.



This year the contract negotiations began in September and dragged on until the contract was about to expire on January 1, 1977. The workers were not informed why it was taking so long for some of the proposals to be coming out of those meetings and by the end of December had demanded that the union inform them of what was going on. The union said they couldn't do that and asked the workers to be patient and grant an extension to the contract talks. (It was later learned that the union and the company had reached an agreement that neither negotiating team would discuss the negotiations with anybody).

"It was the same, meeting after meeting. Vince (union president Vince Gagliano) would get up and ask that we extend the contract so the negotiations could continue, and we'd always ask, 'What is being negotiated?'"

During this time a small, but determined rank and file movement organized to fight for the demands of the workers. Chief among these were a 50 cents/hr. wage increase each year, equal pay for equal work and job descriptions.

Due to pressure, the company announced its proposals through union president Gagliano: a complicated work incentive (piece work) system; and a 30-30-20 (30 cents/hr. raise for the first year, 30 cents/hr. raise for the second year and 20 cents/hr. raise for the third year) system.

At the end of February the workers voted to go on strike. The union officials kept on stalling for time telling the workers, "You don't understand the company's offer." Unable to stop the workers' demands, the union officials agreed to the strike. But even during the strike it became unclear whose side they were really on.

"There was a time when the union said we could have only so many people picketing and told us which entrances to have the pickets at. We soon found out that the company was shipping the picture frames out in garbage trucks that they were loading at the entrances where there were no pickets."

The strike lasted a little over two weeks. When it was over, the union officials agreed to 5 cents more per hour over what the company first proposed; the workers' other demands were pushed to the side. As one observer noted when the strike ended, "It seemed the union officials were doing just as much as the company in making sure the workers' demands weren't met." □

## Rally To Protest Anti-Union Bias

(New York, N.Y.) On March 1, close to 4,000 people circled the J.P. Stevens Tower in midtown Manhattan to protest against the company's anti-union tactics. Singing "We Shall Overcome," the picketers, representing mostly labor and student organizations, carried signs naming J.P. Stevens textile workers fired for union activities.

The second largest textile firm in the world, and with sales of over \$1.4 billion in 1976, J.P. Stevens is waging an all-out campaign to resist unionization at its 85 plants (80 in the South) where 45,000 workers are employed. Wages for workers at Steven's plants are 31 per cent below the average national factory wage.

The textile workers union won its first election against J.P. Stevens at a plant in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, during the summer of 1974. Today, a full two-and-a-half-years later, the company has yet to sign a contract with the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

Textiles are America's last major unorganized manufacturing industry and the J.P. Stevens battle is key to the South, where fewer than 10 per cent of the regions 589,000 textile workers are unionized.

As picketers demonstrated outside the J.P. Stevens Tower, another 500 people went inside



Protests mount against the anti-union tactics of J.P. Stevens, the second largest textile firm in the world.



where the annual stockholders' meeting was being held. A number of J.P. Stevens workers had made the long trip to New York from their homes in the South, and hundreds of their supporters bought the minimum number of J.P. Stevens charges to enable them to attend and vote at the shareholders' meeting.

Seven J.P. Stevens workers spoke at the meeting in favor of two shareholders resolutions proposed by five religious organizations. The proposals sought information on J.P. Stevens discriminatory practices on the basis of race and sex, poor working conditions faced by J.P. Stevens employees, and the company's anti-union campaign, particularly at its Statesboro and Roanoke Rapids plants.

One 20-year employee at the now-closed Statesboro plant testified that he never had a promotion at the company because he is Black. Board Chairman James D. Finley responded, "You had an unusual unfortunate experience which most of our employees don't." Another worker from Mississippi told shareholders that he had trained many new employees who then became his supervisors, and that he, too, was never promoted because he is Black.

Lucy Taylor, 62, and Ola Harrell, 57, both retired workers from the Stevens plant in Roanoke Rapids, N.C., suffer from brown lung disease. Harrell started working in the mills when she was 14, threading bobbins and filling magazines. "They paid me 25 cents an hour then," she told *Workers World*, "but I could buy more with that then than I could with the \$57 a week that they paid me before I retired."

Describing the dangerous conditions and the company's disdain for its workers, which are characteristic of the Stevens' plants, Harrell caught her finger in a loom eight years ago. "The boss man made me work the rest of the night with my finger broken and hurting so bad that I could hardly keep from screaming. But I needed my job."

Because of unsafe conditions, every Stevens' worker has at least one horror story to tell, and Taylor told hers to Stevens Chairman of the Board James Finley at the meeting. "The loom next to mine caught on fire," she said, "and I went to the door to get some air. The supervisor said, 'Why aren't you at work?' I said 'I can't catch my breath.' He said 'Get back to your job—the machines cost money and they got to run.' He told me that he could stand at the door and whistle and get all the workers he needs.

Charlotte Brady, a community organizer in Roanoke Rapids, sharply contested Board Chairman Finley's assertion that J.P. Stevens workers "overwhelmingly reject unions." The company, she pointed out, has not yet allowed a "free, honest, closed, secret election," in which the workers could voice their position. □

## FIGHTING CITY HALL

### City Delays Millions For Jobs

(Chicago, Ill.) In a series of "hustles" during the last weeks before the April 19 primary, acting Mayor Michael Bilandic and his administration are making a big issue out of his attempts to obtain federal funds for community and economic development. Meanwhile, approval of the city's Overall Economic Development Plan (OEDP)



Acting Mayor Michael Bilandic—a barrier to millions for permanent jobs so badly needed by Chicago's unemployed.



which could bring millions of dollars for jobs to Chicago's unemployed, remains delayed due to the city's violation of civil rights guidelines. Charges brought against the city last winter by the Coalition to Stop the Chicago 21 Plan cite the city's failure to include minorities chosen by the communities and unemployed and underemployed people on the planning committee. The U.S. Dept. of Commerce has not approved the plan, and the objection is significantly holding up the city's entire economic development plan. This was admitted recently by Sam Bernstein, director of the Mayor's Office of Manpower. But "we will go ahead anyway," Bernstein bitterly declared.

The city is going ahead, somewhat behind-the-scenes. First, it has been learned that city officials are putting extreme pressure on Dept. of Commerce officials to waive certain federal guidelines so the Chicago OEDP can receive a "special" designation. Part of the deal involves the city getting certain minority groups to give approval to the OEDP Committee and thereby give rubber stamp approval to the plan itself.

Second, Bilandic suddenly announced that the city was going to receive an extra \$18 million in community development funds for the third year of the program. Then, while local community hearings have been going on, Bilandic flew to Washington, D.C. to meet with HUD Secretary Patricia Harris and other big city mayors to press for extension of the Housing and Community Development Act which expires this August. Yet nowhere in the city of Chicago can one find a detailed breakdown on how the \$43.8 million Chicago received over the last two years has been spent. The city claimed to have a summary report but it was "delayed at the printers" the week before the local hearings so no one could see it. Intensive research reveals that much of the past two years' community development money has gone to pave the way for urban renewal projects on the near northside, the State Street Mall, land clearance and demolition on the near westside. The money was to be used on projects to benefit low and moderate income families.

Meanwhile, the Dearborn Park Corporation (formerly the Chicago 21 Corporation), headed by Ray Wieboldt, officially bought the land for the South Loop New Town (the first project of the Chicago 21 Plan). *KEEP STRONG* has learned that the corporation will go to the first city council meeting after the April 19 election and file for a zoning change. Even though no public hearing has been held, sources indicate that at

least 15 major contractors have made bids for the construction work involved in the project.

Bilandic's boasting of millions of dollars from the federal government for jobs, housing, community and economic development is a "trickbag." All the evidence points to more masterplans which will destroy neighborhoods to make way for shopping centers for the rich, crosstown expressways and walled cities like Dearborn Park to provide "security" for the middle and upper class. But resistance is mounting as the city-wide coalition of Black, Latino and poor and working Whites is demanding that federal funds for economic development come into this city with the guarantee that they will be used to create permanent jobs, low-income housing and services to benefit those who live in the city and have no place to go. □

## Community Slate To Run For Northside Council

(Brooklyn, N.Y.) Carrying on after their recent success in reopening the People's Firehouse (see article, page 18), community residents have announced they will run a community slate in the May elections for board of the Northside Community Development Council. Spokespersons for the slate have charged that the present board is not dealing with many of the serious problems the Northside is faced with.

Adam Veneski, who is vice president of the board and also running on the community slate, charged that most board members are controlled by political bosses. He went on to say, "They aren't willing to take steps on certain issues that might hurt political people. That's a big hassle, because when you're fighting for housing or against redlining, you have to step on politicians' toes. These are the issues they try and avoid. Take the Our Lady of Consolation issue—they say that's not their problem, but if you're losing a school and possibly a parish, that should be an issue on that board."

The Northside Community Development Council controls a \$150,000 federal grant, CETA jobs and is the sponsoring agent of the Senior Citizens Center. Northside is a long established predominantly Polish neighborhood on the East River. Over 60% of the residents are senior citizens and





"People's Fire Chief," Adam Veneski (left) and N.Y. Mayor Beame (right) at reopening of the "People's Firehouse."

have lived there all their lives. In recent years the community has suffered from increased arson, destruction of homes, crime and serious cutbacks of city services. Asked to comment on the possibility that a plan exists to destroy the community, Mr. Veneski said "Yes, definitely. They had plans in 1973 to close the firehouse, which they tried two years later in 1975. I believe this area has been sold out by the elected officials. You know the way they deal with favors—now it's time for them to pay off, and I think that's where that planned shrinkage came in. This neighborhood was written off. You can see it in the Brooklyn Diocese, the city and the state, the banks and the insurance companies. The city must have plans for this waterfront. It's a valuable piece of property."

The community slate has dedicated itself to bringing Northside together and improving the neighborhood. Many on the slate have been active in the struggle to reopen the fire house, as well as other community issues. When asked what they would do if elected to the board, Mr. Veneski stated, "If we win, then you know it will move along the right way. We're not going to hold back anything. If there have to be heavy demonstrations, that will be done. If people have to be hurt, they'll be hurt—I'm talking about elected officials. It's going to be a tough job, but we've proved ourselves already to the community by winning back the fire house after 17 months of hanging in there, fighting the city and the state and whoever was involved."

Spokespersons for the slate explained that they will put together a platform based on what they



Community gives key to firehouse to returning firemen.

will gain, why they want to be on the board and what they will do for the community. They called on present board members to do the same, charging that no one in the past has ever run on a platform. "This is the way it should be done, so we don't get any bumps on the stump, just hanging around on the board. I think it will turn around. You'll get dedicated people on the board, and it will turn the community around," added Mr. Veneski. □

## People's Firehouse Reopens

(Northside, Brooklyn) Hundreds of community residents and supporters gathered March 19 to mark the reopening of the Peoples' Firehouse in the Northside neighborhood of Brooklyn. The high-spirited crowd cheered and sang as community leaders proclaimed "a victory for the people."

Two weeks previous to the event a contract between the community, the city and fire department officials was signed. The community, remembering past failures of the fire department, waited to personally turn over the key to returning firemen. The reopening ended a struggle that began in November, 1975 when neighborhood residents refused to let the fire department remove the fire truck and close down Engine Company #212. Budget problems—due to New York City's alleged financial crisis—were



cited as the reason for the drastic cut in service. The 16 month struggle to reopen the firehouse included continuous occupation of the firehouse, demonstrations at city officials' homes and a sit-in on one of New York's major highways, the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

One of the key provisions of the contract called for consultation with the community before any future changes in fire service. Residents expressed a firm determination to make sure the city lives up to its commitments. As life-long community resident Joyce Mayefski put it, "I hope it works out, but we're going to keep a close watch." Asked what he thought about the new contract, Gerard Crepeau, 28, an active fire house supporter stated, "There's more guarantees in it, and it's not so vague as previous proposals. For any changes in the future, the fire department will have to come to us."

People's Firehouse spokespeople, pointing to the support of many local politicians, commented, "We even got the politicians to take a stand. They were afraid not to — after all it's election year. It should be clear that the people won this victory; we forced the politicians to help us."

The people involved in winning back the firehouse plan to continue in the community. Adam Veneski, dubbed "The People's Fire Chief," told of future plans; "We have a committee to monitor the services. We've got a storefront across the street which we're moving into to make sure they keep up their part of the bargain." Angie Whelehan, 25, added, "It's fantastic. It's a start. We've got our foot in the door, beginning to work to improve the neighborhood." One older resident commented on the unity between young and old and in betweens. He went on to say, "They said Northside was a neighborhood knocked down. Well, we've come up fighting!" □

## **Milwaukee Masterplanners Move South**

(Milwaukee, Wisc.) At a well-attended public hearing at the Forrest Home Public Library on March 16, the Milwaukee Redevelopment Authority announced plans to demolish 20 units of low-income housing in the area of 6th and Madison in order to make room for light

manufacturing facilities.

At the hearing, which was held 25 blocks from the neighborhood in question, speakers from the Redevelopment Authority attempted to outline the need for such destruction at this time. Proponents of the plan testified that the Federal Community Development Act monies would be used to acquire the property and pay for the demolition costs. While the Redevelopment Authority officials refused to make public other plans they have for the area, many community leaders speculate that the destruction will not stop here. They point to the Milwaukee Masterplan of 1972 which indicates that by 1990 most of the area south from Pierce to Lapham, between 4th and 6th will be used for manufacturing. Their greatest concern is the fact that the area slated for demolition lies in the heart of the Latino community. It is well known that the key to the city's masterplan is the destruction of low-income neighborhoods that surround the downtown central business district and the dispersal of their non-white and poor White residents.

Opponents of the plan argue that the city already has plenty of room for light manufacturing. The city's own Overall Economic Development Plan published in 1974 states that the Menominee River Industrial Belt has lost 8,000 jobs in the last ten years and is almost 40% underused now. They point to the large amount of vacant commercial property particularly in the 3rd ward area, immediately north of the proposed site and contrast that to the 3.8% residential vacancy rate, stating that there is absolutely no reason to destroy low-income housing to make room for more factory space.

The coordinator of the Milwaukee Inter-communal Survival Committee summarized the situation when he stated; "This is a classic case of manipulation of the public. They (the Redevelopment Authority) originally raised a phoney issue of some development at 30th and Greenfield, the exact neighborhood where the public hearing was held, knowing that the people would come out to oppose it, and the alderman would have it killed in the city council. But that gave them an excuse to hold the hearing 25 blocks from the 6th and Madison Latino community. They didn't do any publicity in the Latino community, so that their voice was not heard at the meeting. The council rubber stamped the plan. The fact is that White people have to take the broadest view of what is in their interest and what is not. They have to see that this train won't stop at 6th and Madison." □



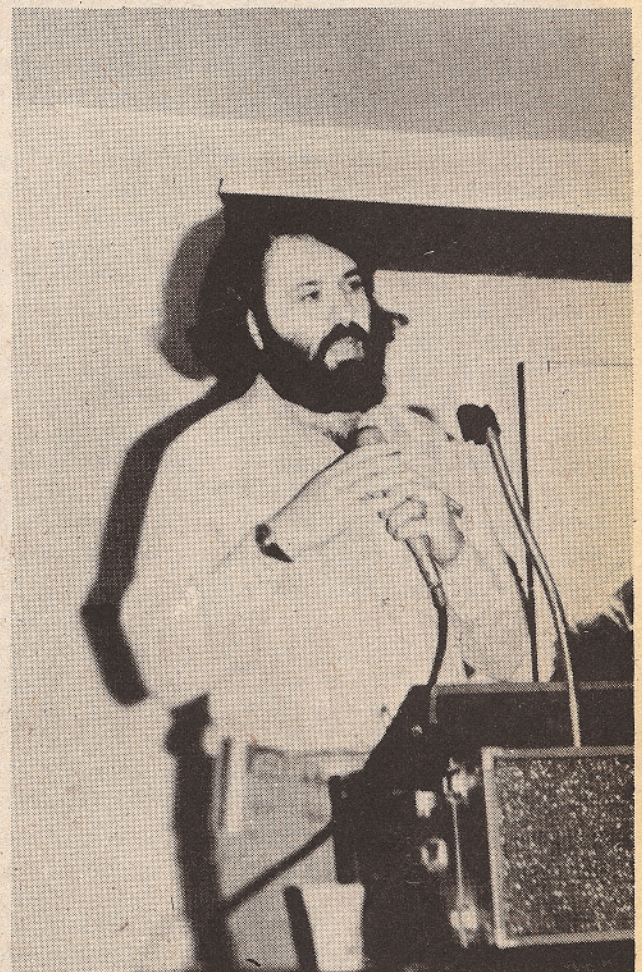
# CABLA LEADS COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE FIGHT

*Resolved: "The Chicago Area Black Lung Association is wholeheartedly in support of the establishment of a neighborhood clinic in Uptown under the direction of the Department of Medicine of Cook County Hospital and that within that neighborhood clinic there should be a special facility providing diagnostic service to black lung victims. In view of the tragic situation facing claimants for black lung benefits in Chicago and in view of the urgent need for a health facility in Uptown willing and able to meet all the health care needs of the community and willing and able to be responsive to the desires of the community, we demand that this clinic be established promptly. We also support the establishment of a community board to set policies for the clinic and for substantial representation for members of the Chicago Area Black Lung Association on all matters relating to health problems of former coal miners."*

The above resolution was unanimously affirmed by some 100 representatives of the Chicago Area Black Lung Association (CABLA) and enthusiastically applauded by an additional 150 community residents all of whom had crowded into the Fred Hampton Memorial Hall to attend CABLA's March meeting and presentation to the community: "The Struggle for Health Care." One Black Lung Association member remarked after the meeting that it has now been just over a year since six or seven coal miners and widows began meeting at each other's houses to trade experiences about the unjust handling of their claims. The meeting of March 13 and the show of unity and strength around the demand for a people's clinic showed that coal field migrants of Chicago do not have to accept their "fate" — second class health care, humiliating and degrading treatment by all the institutions of the city, and the deliberate policy on the part of the Social Security Administration and the Department of Labor of treating them as undeserving of black lung benefits.

The meeting, chaired by Lawrence Zornes,

former coal miner and chairman of CABLA, featured Dr. Ronald Shansky, director of clinical services for the Department of Medicine of Cook County Hospital, as its guest speaker. Dr. Shansky described how he and other progressive doctors at the county hospital had concluded that the quality of public health care in Chicago could be greatly improved by reaching out into various neighborhoods which have massive health care needs that private hospitals and doctors are

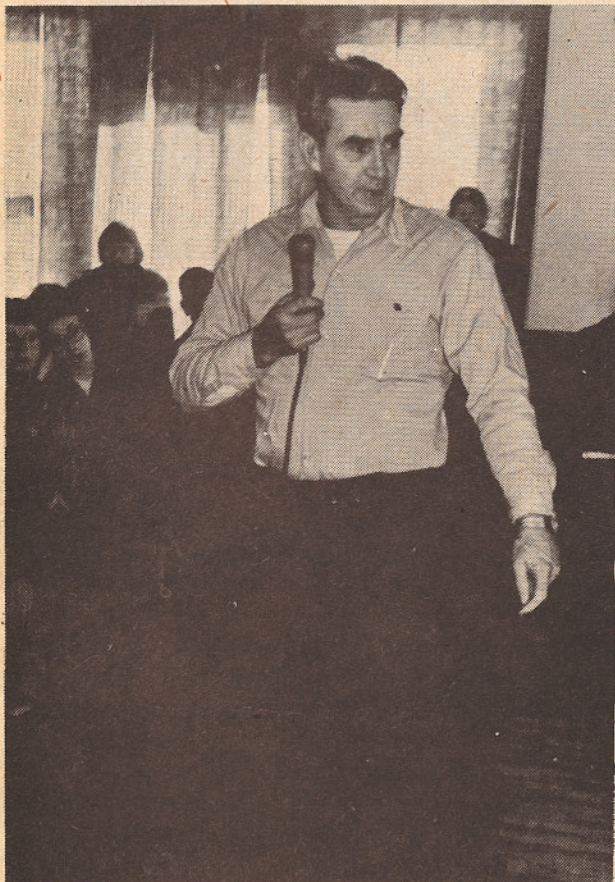


Guest speaker Dr. Ronald Shansky underscored that the quality of public health care could be greatly improved by reaching into the neighborhoods that have massive health care needs.





A resolution calling for the establishment of a neighborhood clinic in Uptown was unanimously affirmed by some 100 representatives of the Chicago Area Black Lung Association.



Chicago Area Black Lung Association Chairman Lawrence Zornes.

unwilling and unable to deal with. He then pointed out that the plans to set up a facility in Uptown had been stalled by persons linked to the city's Board of Health facility at Hazel and Wilson who objected to the creation of another clinic in Uptown.

Bitter experience with poor quality public health care prompted many community residents to voice their anger and indignation that the city would stall on approving the badly needed health facility. Many described the experiences they or their children have had, from being turned away by various hospitals to being exploited by so-called "welfare" doctors. One woman asked if the proposed new clinic would be able to help when a black lung victim like her husband wakes up in the middle of the night almost unable to breathe. Dr. Shansky replied that he hoped the clinic would be able to provide emergency service for such situations.

One community resident voiced the opinion that the resistance to the proposed clinic reflected the fear of the Bilandic-Daley machine of allowing any quality, people-controlled services to exist in a community which they have slated for destruction, that the powers that be in fact have a stake in the poor health care that we receive because that helps discourage us from remaining in the community. □



# EACH ONE TEACH ONE!

## UPTOWN EDUCATIONAL MODEL FIGHTS FOR SURVIVAL OF YOUNG MINDS

The new Each One Teach One program initiated at the Uptown People's Community Service Center is, above all else, "a survival program for the minds of our youth." This was the message conveyed by ISC education coordinator Joan Wallace in an interview with *KEEP STRONG* after the program was announced last month. "We have arrived at a serious situation here because our children lose their desire to learn at a very early age, in the school system," said Joan. "Consequently there are many children who graduate from grade school who are unable to read at all and have no vehicle to regain the precious thirst for knowledge they once had."

While the school budgets in the poor and oppressed communities are being cut more and more, the school system continues to exclude parent and community participation in the education of the children. This new model program involves parents, older brothers and sisters, community volunteers, unemployed teachers and the children, who are between the ages of 6 and 9, and includes consultation with the children's overworked teachers in the schools. Program director Wallace explained that the first Each One Teach One club is already in practice involving 12 children, four aides ages 13 to 16, two community volunteers, an accredited teacher and daily participation on a rotating basis by the parents of the children. Perhaps most exciting about the after-school and Saturdays program is the program organizers' determination to develop hundreds of other clubs throughout the city based on the model already established. "We hope that we have found a



ISC education coordinator Joan Wallace: "At stake is the survival of the minds of our children, of our future."

model that will transform the present non-participation of the community and change what is now a quickly failing educational system."

Taking the educational theme from the Black Panther Party's model Oakland Community School, along with other teaching techniques, the goal of the program is not so much to teach the children "what to think," but rather "how to think." Through an innovative and caring





Although the main focus of the Each One Teach One program is to assist the children in their reading, writing and math skills, the program sees "that the world is their classroom" and so provides a wide range of experiences including recreational activities, weekly field trips, art classes and individual tutoring in basic skills.

approach to learning that can stress individual attention simply because it mobilizes the human resources of the community, it is the hope of the program to help the children to approach problems analytically and with the skills they will need to function in this highly technological society.

Although the major focus of the program is to assist the children in their reading, writing and math skills, the program sees "that the world is their classroom" and so provides the children with a wide range of experiences. They are involved in weekly recreational activities and weekly field trips to all parts of the city and surrounding areas as well as art classes and individual tutoring in basic skills.

According to the Each One Teach One volunteers, the teenage teacher aides are essential to the success of the program because the younger children often learn faster from someone closer to their own age. The participation of different parents in the program has provided the best insights into how particular children learn most quickly and is crucial to keeping the program in line with the children's real needs.

Constant communication between the parents, the staff of the Each One Teach One program and the teachers in the public schools is maintained so that there is an understanding of what the children are learning and a continuity between the schools and the program. Each day of the program, the children are served a snack upon their arrival and a hot, nutritious meal just before they go home. If a child is going to learn, it is pointed out, his or her physical needs must be of primary concern.

One of the most important aspects of the program is that the children are given an opportunity to learn in an atmosphere which promotes love, respect, cooperation and collective development among all participants in the program. Each person, young and old alike, is responsible for each other's development. Says Wallace, "The model we are talking about becomes a reality when it is practiced through the program and far beyond, into the everyday lives of the children and the community. We believe that what we are doing here in Uptown can and must be done throughout poor and oppressed communities everywhere. At stake is the survival of the minds of our children, of our future." □



# PARENTS' SLATE TO RUN IN BROOKLYN COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

*Diane Turowski, Linda Fox, Mildred Johnson and Bridgette Veneski are running on the "Parents' Slate" in the upcoming Community School Board elections in District 14, covering the Greenpoint-Williamsburg area of Brooklyn, New York. In the following interview they express their frustrations with the current school board and problems in the public schools. As candidates they offer some suggestions and ideas for improvements. KEEP STRONG urges its readers to read the interview and find out more about this important election. As one candidate states, "It should be a community school board."*

**KEEP STRONG:** What powers does the Community School Board (CSB) have?

**LINDA FOX:** "It has power over the hiring and firing of teachers, paraprofessionals and teachers aides. They hire the community superintendent. They make the cuts in all the schools — program cuts, curriculum cuts. They'll decide what school in the area should be closed, what school should get what program. Essentially they do all decision-making on a community level. Within the school board there are different committees that individually have no power, but can make recommendations. The committees are: Personnel, Curriculum, Budget and Finance, Building and Construction, Statutes and Legal Affairs, Drugs."

**DIANE TUROWSKI:** "They get a certain amount of money from the central board, then they make up a budget for the district. It's their decision what they do with it. Nobody ever knows anything about the committees because there are never any reports from them. Last CSB meeting had the first report, and it was very vague. That's one of the problems — knowing exactly what powers and what money they have. They definitely don't want the people to know

what responsibilities they have. They're afraid the people will find out the powers the CSB has and what an important role school board members play in the educational system."

**KS:** What are the major problems and issues in School District 14?

**MILDRED JOHNSON:** "A major problem is the administrators of the school. I think if you have good administrators it would filter down to the children. The teachers have to have someone over them who pressure them to pressure the children. If the administrators don't care, you end up with the children not caring."

**Diane:** "Lack of quality education; the children just aren't getting it. There's a lot of dropouts in the intermediate schools. They seem to do fine in 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades, but when they get to the intermediate schools, there's an abundance of



Linda Fox



kids who find they can't read well, can't write well and start getting really frustrated. The kids are also aware that they can only be left back so many times. They'll be promoted just to get them out of school because of the overcrowdedness of the schools."

Linda: "They have programs that call children 'intellectually gifted.' My own personal belief is no one is intellectually gifted. I think there's skills that people develop. It's not because it was handed down through genes. So many times the blame on children dropping out of school and not doing well is either put on the child or the parents. What we're saying is it can't be because all these children aren't 'intellectually gifted.' What's happening is the schools aren't making programs work, and they're not making the kids interested in school. People have told us their child was sent to the school psychiatrist because the child wasn't doing well. But the child in 1st or 2nd grade had a reading level one or two years advanced. Something is happening to the children in school."

Diane: "I think it has a lot to do with that city-wide testing they give. If a child has a really high score, they promote that child. I was told my daughter in 2nd grade was a college bound student. I don't know how anybody could make an evaluation like that on a seven year old. They put her in a special class. This is the class out of the whole school they're going to watch from grade 1 to the end. This is the class that's going to be pushed and told 'you can do it.' The rest are ignored because they didn't do well on the tests. They don't take into account what kind of background these children have. What about a child whose family just came from another country? Or a child who freaks out when a test is given or just doesn't do well on a test that year. They're forgotten. One of the prime things in this neighborhood is people are moving out of this area to get into better school systems, to get quality education. Parents really have to fight to get the schools up to par so they can remain in the schools here. Even the Catholic schools are having problems with reduced budgets, etc. Parents are finding that the Catholic school system is just as bad off. They feel they don't have a choice, and they're moving out."

KS: *Do you feel the present school board is working to solve these problems?*

Diane: "I don't think they know what the problems are. They haven't taken the time out to ask the parents."



Diane Turowski

Linda: "Not only don't they look for problems, but when they are questioned or asked to do something, they do not act. They are not interested in the children. Our school board is controlled by the United Federation of Teachers (UFT). I think that out of nine seats only two, maybe three, aren't UFT-controlled. For that matter most of them don't even have children in the schools."

Diane: "I don't think the teachers in the Union have control over the school board. It's just a few people who have been able to manipulate this, mainly the UFT's district representative, Mario De Stefano. He wants certain people on there. People make promises like, 'I'll keep your job if you'll do this for me.' So long as he can control the school board he can control who's hired and fired. He can control the school superintendent. Their interest is not in the community, it's in themselves. Right now they're so caught up in who owes who a favor, they don't know what they're doing. Their whole campaign is UFT-run. We attended one CSB meeting where a decision was about to be made. Mario De Stefano got up in the back and yelled at them, 'Don't make that decision.' One school board member said, 'You're not talking into the microphone. The parents can't hear you.' He told him, 'I'm not talking to them. I'm talking to you on the board.' If it's a community school board, it should be one. That was the whole idea of it, of decentralization, to get the community involved on some level about decisions being made."

KS: *What will you do if you are elected?*

Diane: "The first thing I would do is find out how much money and power the CSB has, then bring that into the school system and to the parents."



more open meetings, possibly even meetings each month at different schools, during the day, at the PTA meetings, etc. when I know the parents are going to be there."

Linda: "School board committees need to be community-controlled, not school board-controlled. Right now the school board puts just one person on a committee, and that person is a board member. First of all, we would have more than one person on a committee and second of all, have people on that are being affected by these decisions. Parents have to have the biggest say. There has to be some type of communications between parents and teachers."

Mildred: "We have to have some accountability of the teachers. If you do not perform, then you shouldn't teach. You should go do something else."

Diane: "The school board has to organize the parents to fight the cutbacks in services and money. We would also like to see a coalition between all the different district school boards, so people aren't fighting over what district got what and who got more money, etc. Then you could have more power in fighting cutbacks."

"What we're concerned about also is how much money goes into the whole educational system. Where is it all being spent? CSB's could take a bigger step. Just because you're told this is your job doesn't necessarily mean you can't go beyond that. And they haven't gone beyond that. When the government turns around and says we're going to have these little school boards set up in all the districts, are you actually making decisions? Do you really have the power? Or are you there just as a front to say, now the community is involved in this. Parent Advisory Councils (PAC) were set up to insure citizen participation, but all it did was it allowed the



Bridgette Veneski



Mildred Johnson

government to turn around and say, 'Look we have all these PAC's. In fact, the PAC's have no decision-making power at all.'

Mildred: "We have one school in here that has 92% Puerto Rican children and has one Spanish teacher. In a school that has over 75% Puerto Rican children, we want over half the teachers to be Puerto Rican. In a school that is over 75% Black, we want over half the teachers to be Black."

*KS: What have you done that would make you good school board members?*

Diane: "We're parents. We've served on a lot of committees in the neighborhood. We're community organizers and have been very involved in the community."

*KS: What has been the reaction to your campaign so far?*

Linda: "We thought we could just kind of sneak on and get votes without them thinking we were a threat. But they are doing everything possible to stop us. They've lied to people, gave them false information, they've challenged our nominating petitions, they put teachers out working for them, because otherwise they'll lose their jobs. I know of one person who they told that the nominating petition was just a petition to get better books in the schools. They are very threatened by us."

*KS: What has been the response in the community?*

Linda: "Very, very supportive. Many people have come to talk with us and more important, have had a lot of input into our campaign. That's how we decided on the important issues— by talking to people." □



# MAYOR OF THE NEIGHBORHOODS: HAROLD WASHINGTON

Late last month *KEEP STRONG* interviewed the front-running independent mayoral candidate Harold Washington and asked him about his point of view on the destruction of Chicago neighborhoods. "I don't think people are paranoid when they see a masterplan to vacate the area within a radius of a mile and a half around the downtown area," said Washington. "There does seem to be a plan to do so through the ruthlessness of urban renewal, or through the deliberate refusal on the part of the banking industry to put rehabilitation money or low-interest mortgage money in these communities, or of the insurance companies to put in conventional insurance."

Washington, presently a distinguished State Senator, went on in his comments about the destruction of neighborhoods. "This has got to be some kind of plan. I think the plan was tipped when the Chicago 21 Plan came down and you could see in quick and stark relief just what the whole thing is all about. There has been a successful attempt to prevent neighborhood groupings, particularly in a two or three mile radius around the loop, from involving themselves meaningfully in urban renewal. It makes no sense to just empty out block after block. When you do, you not only remove the people but you remove institutions, you remove shopping centers, you remove religious groupings, you remove an energy force, you remove an attitude around which people have grown up and believed in and flourished in for years. You remove the glue that keeps people together."

Washington's answer to the problems of maintaining and developing the neighborhoods reflects his overall commitment to bring the people of the neighborhoods into the governing process. "There has been this attempt to deny



people the right to be involved in decision-making regarding the plan in the neighborhoods and ultimately the overall plan. What should be done is that neighborhoods which can be more or less circumscribed should be permitted to come together through an ordinance or law in a problem-solving way around the schools, around zoning, around urban rehabilitation with adequate safeguards against blatant discrimination on the part of the residents."

A similar approach reflecting sensitivity to the local neighborhoods characterized Washington's





position on stopping crime. First he recognizes that crime is related to the "lack of quality education and lack of employment opportunity." But on the specific question of law enforcement Washington distinguishes himself from the other candidates. "My attitude about law enforcement is simply that we have to restructure our police forces so that they do adequately reflect the makeup of the community. For a community where crime, street crime, is high, there is a great need for police protection. But people don't trust the police too much because we've found that the police are arrogant and that many of them should not even be on the police force. When the police force is representative, then the police will have the advantage of knowing the communities in which they will work. They will reflect a different attitude towards the people they serve."

Senator Washington discussed his plans to bring money for jobs and rehabilitation of housing, and he pointed to the problem of people coming to work from the suburbs and returning with their paychecks untaxed to the suburbs. The senator suggested a "suburban tax" for those who work in the city but live in the suburbs, so that money made from jobs in the city could be taxed to maintain and improve the city.

The campaign so far has been characterized by broad participation from the Black, Puerto Rican,

poor, working class and liberal White communities and Washington commented on this; "From a strictly political point of view, it's necessary to form a coalition in this town to really defeat the machine. You can't do it with any one single group, either because they are not in place in terms of adequate registration, or because the degree of apathy is high or maybe there are splits. What is necessary from a political point of view is to attract groups of people. The logical groups are those that receive less from the city: Latinos, Appalachian Whites, to a certain extent the liberal Whites and obviously the Blacks. This will form a political coalition, but it also forms a working majority that will be interested in preserving the inner city."

This coalition which Washington speaks of seems to be not only the key to his growing political success but also the thing which sets him apart from the other candidates. In his own words, he seeks to be "a mayor of the neighborhoods" and to replace the present "mayor of the business community." Chicago has had a government that came from one neighborhood, the eleventh ward, and was responsible to one community, the business community. Washington has already broken from this tradition by going to the neighborhoods. Others have called Chicago "the city that works." Washington has called for making Chicago the "city that works for *all* its people," for making *all* of Chicago a *working* city. □



# Harold Washington On the Issues

## • Jobs

*"Use public works funds for labor-intensive redevelopment projects in high unemployment areas. Keep funds flowing by obeying federal law. Consider replacing the 'head tax' with a tax on commuters who work in the city. Press banks to stop draining city deposits into suburban development and look for public loan capital sources (e.g., by using city and state bonding authority). Offer tax incentives for new industry on unused sites in low-income areas. Press for national full employment legislation."*

## • Schools

*"Appoint a special mayoral assistant on education to make sure that public resources outside the School Board are available to improve education. Appoint board members who are capable of setting clear policies and strong enough to make sure they are followed. Get a concerned board; more members should have children in public schools. Support and expand successes like child-parent centers. Release money for teaching by cutting excess bureaucracy. Fight for a full state aid funding."*

## • Crime

*"Decentralize day-to-day control of police deployment to permit quicker response to changing neighborhood needs. Actively support and encourage responsible community anti-crime programs. Stop pulling police out of high-crime Black and low-income areas. Regain community confidence by ending hiring discrimination and political spying, cracking down against brutality and abuse of citizens, and putting police under firm civilian control."*

## • Neighborhood Development

*"It's a scandal that housing and neighborhood redevelopment are planned without input from, and often over the opposition of, community residents. Reorient away from building walled fortresses for the well-to-do like the proposed South Loop New Town, toward remodeling of existing neighborhoods for present residents. Public housing should be low density, scattered site economically and racially integrated. More emphasis needed on providing housing to meet the special needs of the elderly. Fight against home loan and insurance redlining."*

## • Transportation

*"All transferable transit funds should go to mass transit instead of highways. would not consider supporting the Crosstown or any other new expressway until we have a much larger, faster transit network, including more buses, expanded median strip rapid transit, and so on. Increase revenues by making mass transit attractive to more people; use the added revenue to prevent fare increases, and move toward reductions."*

*Quotes from Chicago Sun-Times*



# ELAINE BROWN TESTIFIES AT FRED HAMPTON MURDER TRIAL

After 14 months of slander against the Black Panther Party, the Party through the voice of its chairperson, Elaine Brown, finally had the opportunity to respond in the \$47 million lawsuit filed on behalf of the families of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark and the survivors of the December 4, 1969 police raid.

As Elaine testified last month, it was the first time a current member of the Black Panther Party has been able to speak to the jury in response to the many attacks by defendants against the Party. The picture that has been painted, particularly by defendants William O'Neal, an FBI informant, and Edward Hanrahan, the man who, as Cook County state's attorney, ordered the brutal raid, has been negative and distorted. They have tried their best to portray the Party as a "hate type" organization that was, at best, apolitical.

One can only imagine the response of the jury who, after months of slanderous stories about the Party, were confronted with an active member who eloquently described the vision and dedication of its members in the struggle for human justice.

Elaine, in her calm and articulate testimony, was able to bring to the jurors the true purpose and intent of the Party since its inception in October, 1966. Pointing out that the Black Panther Party was born out of the deep frustrations of the 60's, which culminated in rebellions in major cities across the country beginning in 1964, Elaine explained of herself that by 1967, "I had no other alternative than to join the Black Panther Party.

"As I came to know it, the Party was a merger of many movements going on at the time. The name and symbol came from a voter registration campaign in Lowndes County, Alabama. The symbol was important because many people in



Black Panther Party chairperson, Elaine Brown.

the Black community could not read but could easily identify a symbol, and so we picked up the symbol and name from the successful voter registration campaign.

"The Party's concern was to throw off these things that cause so much pain in people's lives. It was the culmination of carrying on and picking up the cudgel of Dr. Martin Luther King and Malcolm X that would say to people, 'You don't really have to live this way,' that riots weren't going to get anything. It was this that caused me to make the decision to join the Black Panther Party."

The Black Panther Party, Elaine explained to the jury, had and still has a 10 Point Program and





Elaine's testimony made it clear that not only did Fred Hampton and his pregnant wife Deborah Johnson have a bed but their apartment was their home. There could be no confusion about who would be there the night of the ill-fated police raid.

Platform which spells out essentially what the Party's beliefs are. "The end of the program closes with the Preamble of the Declaration of Independence and summarizes why we feel we have the right to these things.

"The first point raises the right to have freedom; next, jobs, a decent education, health care; then, the people in prison haven't necessarily received fair trials; and the end of police brutality in the sense of the illegal murder of the people by the police," Elaine explained.

Elaine continued to describe those circumstances which brought her into contact with the Chicago Chapter's dynamic leader, Fred Hampton. As Fred was considered more and more in 1969 as a national leader of the still very young organization, Elaine explained of the charismatic Hampton that he had a unique "ability to bring people to understand what we had to say. People could see his sincere love and respect for them, and through this they were able to begin to understand our many Survival Programs."

During her visit to Chicago three weeks prior to Fred's murder, Elaine emphasized that she had slept in his bed. Previous testimony by defendants has tried to insinuate that no one

could ever be sure where Fred stayed, and vicious speculation was made that the apartment on Monroe Street, on Chicago's westside, was primarily an arms cache. Elaine's testimony made it clear that not only did Fred Hampton and his pregnant wife Deborah Johnson have a bed but their apartment was their home. There could be no confusion about who would be there the night of the ill-fated police raid.

Elaine described to the jury a conversation she had with Fred that night before she went to bed regarding the Free Medical Clinic, which was finally opened by the Chicago Chapter of the Black Panther Party in 1970 after Fred's murder; "Fred said it was difficult to get the Clinic together because supplies had been destroyed, mostly by police, on several occasions. We talked at great length of this difficulty, and as he put it, it was because of so many raids by the police on the places where the supplies were stored." On each occasion the supplies were destroyed.

In spite of repeated objections by defense attorneys who showed unusual discomfort with Elaine's testimony, the jury was given a picture of the Black Panther Party and some of the concrete steps taken by Hampton to educate and involve the people in a process of survival and





One of the many Breakfast Programs operating in Chicago was visited by Elaine on an extremely cold morning during her November, 1969 visit to Chicago. At this program, nearly 100 children were receiving a hot, nourishing meal.

change. These included:

- One of the many Breakfast Programs operating in Chicago was visited by Elaine on an extremely cold morning during her November, 1969, visit to Chicago. At this program, nearly 100 children were receiving a hot, nourishing meal.

- The Soto brothers, two young Black brothers living on the westside, had been killed by the police in 1969 within a very short time of each other. One of these brothers had just returned from Vietnam where he had been in the service. "His family was appalled that he could have survived Vietnam and not Chicago," Elaine said.

- In addition to the Soto brothers' murders, Fred said that "there had been a number of police killings in the Black community and that people were outraged by this. He wanted to put together some kind of program by which people could feel things could change," Elaine testified.

- Fred suggested putting together a petition campaign for Community Control of Police which in fact, was done after his death.

- Fred was the Party figure at the time who initiated the concept of the rainbow coalition.

At a speech made by Fred in Los Angeles and attended by 300 law students, Elaine said, "Fred talked about the need for coalitions for specific purposes, and that we had to recognize the common oppressor and that only through this could we be free."

Although cut off by vigorous objections from defense attorneys, Elaine briefly described the emotion-packed reunion between herself and Deborah Johnson when she returned to Chicago

four days after Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were murdered. Both women, eight months pregnant, embraced and wept as they met outside the apartment where they had visited together with Fred just three weeks before. Obviously fearful of the humanity expressed in Elaine's heartfelt description, defense attorneys succeeded in preventing the jury from hearing any further discussion between the two women.

Culminating her often interrupted but nevertheless penetrating testimony, Elaine eloquently described the slogan coined by the Black Panther Party, "All Power To The People." The slogan, used by Party members almost as a greeting, serves as a constant reminder of the essence of the day-to-day struggle for human justice.

"Everyone should have power over their own life, not you over mine or me over yours but each over our own. We saw that the people that have the power who are in the government and as we came to see, in the large corporations, kept us in a constant cycle where we couldn't get what we needed— clothing, whatever. The slogan 'All Power To The People' really represents the cornerstone of America from Patrick Henry to Abraham Lincoln to Dr. Martin Luther King to Malcolm X, it represents what was written in the Declaration of Independence, that fighting for the people, is a human right beyond any other."

Fearful that continued testimony by Elaine would bring out the truth about the murders of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, defense attorneys — visibly nervous throughout Elaine's testimony — backed off from cross examining her. □



# THE BLACK PANTHER

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The Intercommunal Survival Committee, publishers of **KEEP STRONG**, have been selling **THE BLACK PANTHER**, primarily to white people, for over 6 years now. Thousands are sold on the street, thousands more are delivered regularly to home subscribers. Articles from **THE BLACK PANTHER** are also frequently reprinted in **KEEP STRONG**. The many regular readers among poor and progressive whites is testimony only to the relevance of this fine weekly paper to all oppressed people.

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# STRUGGLE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER

## AN INTERVIEW WITH JOSE "PEPE" MEDINA — PART 3

*Jose "Pepe" Medina, interviewed by KEEP STRONG, told in this part of the lengthy exclusive interview of his first travels inside the U.S. and of his struggles as an "undocumented worker." Driven from his own country by government repression, Medina found that in the U.S. he faces the same struggle for justice. As this issue of KEEP STRONG goes to press, Medina has been refused political asylum and awaits a deportation hearing scheduled for May 11, 1977.*

"Entering at Brownsville, Texas, I passed through Dallas, and it was at that time that Santos Rodriguez, a young Mexican boy, was killed by a Dallas policeman with a gun that supposedly he and the young boy were playing with. He put the gun to the boy's head, pulled the trigger, and the boy was dead. Supposedly they were playing."

With these words Jose Medina described one of his very first impressions of the U.S. He explained that he knew no one in Dallas so he did not get involved. He made his way slowly to Los Angeles where he had the name of Antonio Rodriguez, a leader in the fight for the rights of undocumented workers. Immediately, in Los Angeles, he became involved with the case known as "Los Tres."

Medina's involvement in the defense committee for the three framed Mexicano activists introduced him to the way drugs are used in this country to "repress and oppress people, to alienate people from their reality." He threw himself fully into the defense movement, utilizing his skills as a writer, organizer and lawyer.

Involvement in the movement in Los Angeles brought Medina into the organization called CASA — the General Brotherhood of Workers. He points out that he was naturally able to identify with it because of its strong defense of the rights of undocumented workers. In CASA,



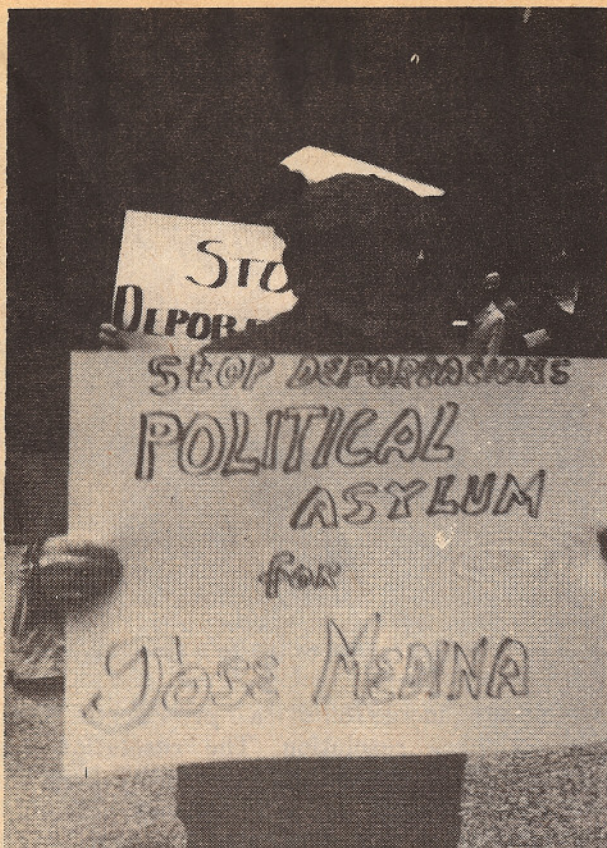
Jose "Pepe" Medina: refused political asylum by the U.S. and now facing deportation.

because of his experience in Mexico, Medina became involved in the area of labor struggles and had the opportunity to examine the conditions of Mexican workers in the factories.

Medina described a strike of workers in the rubber industry. The workers had signed their first collective contract through the Clay Workers Union, local 1010, and they found conditions were worse than they were three years before. In fact they were going to be making \$1 less than they had been making, and the contract had been signed without the knowledge or permission of the workers. Advised by lawyers that "there was nothing to do," the workers, joined by Medina, occupied the union hall and began to fight for their rights.

Jose described the gradual change that is taking place in his thinking; "At first I had decided that I was just going to come to the United States for a vacation from the persecution





Demonstrations across the country have been held demanding political asylum for Jose Medina.

in Mexico. I expected to relax in the super society, the extremely developed society, and return to Mexico in order to reintegrate myself into the struggle I had left. But it was at this time that I began to understand the repression that was more sophisticated. The conditions that exist in this country exist in Mexico, conditions of repression, oppression of the Mexican people. It took a long time for me to decide, but I decided that I was going to stay here and that the struggle can take place anywhere one is. I began to lose sight of the conception of borders. It doesn't really make any difference which side of the border you are on; there is the same repression and the same struggle."

In his search for justice, Medina traveled widely and came into contact with important leaders of the Mexican struggle in this country such as Corky Gonzales, leader of the Crusade for Justice in Denver, Colorado. Each new contact with the movement here seems to have shown him more and more the immediate repressive response of the government towards groups fighting on behalf of the Mexican people in this country. Speaking with Mexican people in many different parts of the country, Medina pointed out that he began to understand the effect of the situation in this country on so many men and

women, originally from Mexico, who live and work here but do not have legal papers—the "undocumented workers." "I began to understand that there were differences created amongst the Mexican people, between those that had and those that were without documents." Establishing committees for undocumented workers, Medina began to take the position as he spoke and traveled that "we should unify ourselves as a people and also as a class — of workers."

In March of 1974 Medina participated in the organization of a conference on immigration and the specific problem of "how to organize committees for the defense of undocumented workers." There were participants from all over the country—New York, Chicago, Washington, Arizona, Texas. At that conference participants and organizers began talking about the concept of the "militant immigrant." "It was a conception that the immigrant worker was not only someone who was looking up for direction or a solution to his problems, but also someone who has the capacity to be part of the struggle."

After the conference, organizations in defense of undocumented workers spread quickly, and Jose Medina became a frequent spokesperson at meetings, on radio and on television. At the same time, the government, under Attorney General Saxbe, was beginning to put pressure publicly on undocumented workers. Then, as now, the problems of unemployment and crime, were blamed on these Mexican workers who had only come to this country because U.S. corporations in Mexico had strangled the economy and made it impossible for them to find work there.

FBI harassment of CASA stepped up greatly during this period, and Medina was forced to "become less visible." In southern California, he continued his work setting up committees for the defense of undocumented workers, and at the end of 1975, he became involved in a strike of pottery workers that lasted five months in spite of the fact that most of the workers were without papers. The strike helped to prove that the undocumented workers have "an intense capacity for struggle, even though their legal situation is precarious."

As part of the direction of this strike, Medina again became more visible, and on March 29, 1976 he was arrested by the FBI in front of his house. The arrest, time in jail and battle with the courts were to be one more experience of what the Mexican worker without papers goes through in this country.!



# NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

## Puerto Rican Activist Jailed For Grand Jury Contempt

(New York, N.Y.) Raisa Nemikin, jailed for a possible 14 months for her refusal to talk to a federal grand jury, kept her spirits high, raised a clenched fist and told her supporters "Vencere-mos!" as she surrendered to authorities March 1. The 27-year-old secretary of the Episcopal Church's Hispanic Affairs Commission was cited for contempt last week when she refused to cooperate with a federal grand jury in New York City investigating the Puerto Rican independence movement.

Nemikin could remain in prison until the grand jury term expires May 9, 1978. She was jailed while the U.S. Circuit Court is considering her appeal. Maria Cueto, director of the commission, has also defied the grand jury. "I will continue to maintain for the duration of my 14 months in jail that the FBI and the U.S. government are attempting to destroy the Hispanic community and the Puerto Rican independence movement," Nemikin declared upon being imprisoned. "Keep strong!" she told the over 100 supporters who picketed the federal court building.

She and Ms. Cueto had been subpoenaed to answer questions about the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional Puertorriquena (FALN), a group said by police to be responsible for a number of building blasts in New York and Chicago. Ms. Nemikin and Ms. Cueto have based their refusal to talk to the grand jury on First Amendment guarantees of religious liberty and freedom of association. The government is asking these questions, they say, "as a pretext to launch a massive fishing expedition aimed at destroying the Puerto Rican independence movement and the Hispanic community's efforts at self-determination."

The government targeted the two women and other persons in the Episcopal Church who successfully supported passage by its House of



Raisa Nemikin, lay minister, has been jailed for a possible 14 months for her refusal to talk to a federal grand jury.

Delegates in 1976 of a pro-Puerto Rican independence resolution. The resolution supported U.N. Resolution 154 — calling for self-determination for all colonies, including Puerto Rico — and demanded freedom for the five Puerto Rican nationalists held in U.S. jails since the early 1950's.

In a move to undercut Nemikin and Cueto and their supporters within the church, presiding Bishop John Allin recently complied with the government when he ordered the church to retrieve all NCHA records for 1970 to 1977. Claiming the files to be church property, church officials turned them over to the FBI and offered their total cooperation in the grand jury investigation.

Allin threatened to fire Nemikin and Cueto, and the church hierarchy has further reorganized the NCHA to exclude Puerto Ricans from policy-making positions, according to *Claridad*, the weekly newspaper of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party. "By cooperating (with the grand jury) the church has destroyed whatever credibility and trust it had with the oppressed," charged Nemikin on the day she was jailed. "The Hispanic people and the other oppressed minorities will continue to resist all of these destructive attempts."

"We will resist in a united and committed front that will bring about the end of these repressive measures and will strengthen and increase support for the Puerto Rican independence movement." □

*Reprinted from The Black Panther*



# LEAA Study Reveals Masterplan For Police State

(Washington, D.C.) A federal advisory group set up by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) last month issued a 661 page report, *Disorders and Terrorism*, which predicts a new wave of rebellions and protests in the cities, similar to those of the 1960's when the civil rights and anti-war movements were at their height. The study, financed by a \$262,000 LEAA grant, was carried out mainly by law enforcement officials and police commanders. Among those on the task force were Police Chief Jerry Wilson of Washington, D.C. and Jesse Brewer of the Los Angeles Police Department. Brewer is a specialist on the SWAT team there.

Specific measures recommended by the Task Force include:

- Temporary citywide curfews.
- Covert intelligence gathering on potentially violent groups (such as police spying by local red squads).
- Emergency powers which would allow authorities to require citizens to carry identification papers.
- Outlawing certain conduct "which although not prohibited by law is considered inflammatory and likely to provoke disorders."
- The use of military force as a last resort and authorization for police to make searches and raids without warrants.

The study recommends that the courts play a crucial role in controlling the effects of social disorder and trials which arise out of "serious offenses." They propose that all these trials be postponed for 90 days, that they be held in locations which offer "maximum security," and that special courtroom security measures "to restrict the liberty of movement of the accused" be taken. Special restrictions on public attendance and reporting by the media should also be enforced.

Evacuation and relocation of persons who might be threatened by terrorist acts or disorder is also recommended. This vague proposal could be used to justify the detention of an entire population in a concentration camp situation, similar to the relocation of all Japanese-Americans to special camps during World War II.



Local police departments are making plans for the "long, hot summer" they are predicting.

It is no coincidence that the LEAA report is released at the same time local police departments are making plans for the "long, hot summer" they are predicting. Many of the plans in the study are aimed at youth, which the Task Force describes as an "entire class which has a marked propensity for individual and group violence." Previous incidents in poor and oppressed communities throughout the country show that local police work through special units like gang intelligence to "set up" violence between youth and the police or among youth gangs. Similarly, the police are often directly involved in promoting racial violence. A good example was last summer when violence broke out in Marquette Park on Chicago's southwest side. It was revealed that the Chicago police participated in rock throwing and had prior knowledge of the Ku Klux Klan and Nazi Party plans to attack Black people. The police, however, did nothing to prevent the violence. (See *KEEP STRONG*; August, 1976).

Anyone who thinks that police surveillance has diminished as a result of lawsuits against the FBI and local red squads should read this report. It is first hand evidence of a "masterplan" to restrict and repress the work of Black, poor and progressive people actively involved in building the movement for social justice in the cities. □



# U.S. Moves Towards National ID Cards

(Washington, D.C.) As part of the increasing repression against Mexican and other undocumented workers in this country, the U.S. government will soon require that all those seeking employment show employers a new counterfeit identification card, Department of Labor Secretary Ray F. Marshall announced last month. This program, officially called "Alien Documentation, Identification and Telecommunications," will cost \$15 million to put into operation by September.

The cards will be made of plastic and carry the person's photograph (in color), signature and thumb print. Personal information (date of birth, legal status, etc.) will be coded on the back. By placing the card in a reader device, authorities will be able to check a person's identity via a central computer in Washington, D.C. within two seconds.

Federal authorities have been considering proposals for a national identification card modeled on the social security card which would be required of *all* workers seeking employment. Rudy Lozano, a member of CASA-General Brotherhood of Workers in Chicago, told *KEEP STRONG* that the new alien ID card is a "step towards establishing a domestic passport." It is a move of the government to "exercise more control over its citizens." The new requirement, he stated, is "reminiscent of the practice in Hitler Germany where Jews were branded with numbers on their arms and in South Africa where Black people are required to carry a passbook at all times." The ID card is part of the Carter administration's plans to openly move "to restrict the activities of workers and progressive people in this country."

Mexican civil rights groups, including CASA, which defends the rights of undocumented workers, condemn the Carter proposals and point out that the problem of unemployment which the administration states as the reason for new laws "is not created by undocumented workers but by the economic system itself" which seeks to protect profit-making businesses and corporations. CASA openly charges that the government proposals are "a call for full repression and attack of Latino people," and that under the Carter administration, Spanish-speaking groups



Rudy Lozano, of CASA in Chicago, has pointed out that the new ID card is a "step towards establishing a domestic passport."

have "legitimate concerns" about being subjected to increased racial discrimination. The new restrictions both at the federal and state level are creating anti-immigrant, anti-Mexican and anti-worker hysteria never before seen since the times of fascist Germany, *SIN FRONTERAS* reports.

In Chicago CASA urges citizens to write their state legislators and call for the defeat of HB 313 which would require people to show proof of citizenship or permanent residency to obtain employment. Thirty-seven representatives including some from the Chicago area support the bill which will soon come to the floor for a vote. □

## U.F.W. Triumphs Over Teamsters

(Burlingame, Calif.) "Now the real battle starts—with the growers," said Cesar Chavez, a triumphant smile arched across his face, as he spoke with newsmen last week after signing an unprecedented agreement between his United Farmworkers Union, AFL-CIO, and the Inter-



national Brotherhood of Teamsters, ending a phase of their 10-year, often heated, battle to represent this state's agricultural workers.

The agreement, which lasts for five years and includes an enforcement mechanism for binding arbitration covering 13 Western states, sets down legal jurisdictional lines defined by state and federal laws.

Despite Chavez's disclaimer that, "We didn't get everything we wanted," so overwhelming was the UFW victory in the accords that the only real concession obtained by the Western Conference of Teamsters was that the pact was signed at its spacious headquarters here in the suburban outskirts of San Francisco.

Under the agreement, reached after an "intensive" — in Chavez' words — series of 18 negotiation sessions beginning last November, the UFW will maintain jurisdiction over all workers covered under the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act (ALRA), while the Teamsters have jurisdiction over all workers covered by the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). (Agricultural laborers were excluded from coverage under NLRA when it was enacted in 1935 because of pressure on Congress from powerful grower interests.)

Essentially, the accord means that UFW organizing of the field workers will proceed with no interference. The Teamsters get strengthened jurisdiction over workers in transportation, packing sheds and canneries. But even here, the UFW gains the upper hand.

"If a trucker is on the payroll of a farmer who is under the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board," the agreement reads, "then he will be represented by the Teamsters, which has traditionally numbered the trucking industry as a main base in its membership."

Likewise, packing sheds which service only crops of one grower will fall under UFW jurisdiction. Sheds handling crops of more than one grower will remain under Teamster control, since this is considered as commercial and thus falls under the NLRB.

Participating in the signing at the crowded press conference were M.E. (Andy) Anderson, head of the Western Conference of Teamsters, the 13-state area covered under the pact, and Cesar Chavez, founder and president of the United Farmworkers Union, AFL-CIO. Also present were International Teamsters President



"Now the real battle starts — with the growers," said Cesar Chavez, as he announced the signing of an unprecedented agreement between the United Farmworkers Union, AFL-CIO, and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Frank Fitzsimmons, who sat in solemn significance, for the most of the gathering, and a smiling pair of attorneys who hammered out the hard details, UFW chief counsel Jerry Cohen and Teamsters lawyer Jack Orms.

Answering questions from over 100 news people in attendance, Chavez said, "The benefits of this agreement are going to be enormous, tremendous, for the farm workers. We're happy with it." Saying that the "agreement opens doors for farm workers to get quicker union protection," Chavez called upon "the grower community in California to give up your anti-union fight to realize the rights of workers to have a union." He told the growers "to join with us so we, together, can enhance the industry and bring about more and better benefits for farm workers."

As for earlier accords reached during the decade-long battle, Chavez said, "This is different. Now we have the top leadership in the West and the international president blessing this agreement." He said that as one result of the agreement, he expects UFW membership to exceed 40,000 by the end of this year. □

*Reprinted from The Black Panther*



# INTERCOMMUNAL PERSPECTIVE

## Southern Africa: Today's Battlefield

*Africa, a continent of over 350 million people, the second largest land mass on earth and holding most of the world's natural resources, has become the main battlefield of today's world-wide struggle for social justice. It's here that the interests of the U.S. empire and their increasing need for resources, manpower, and increasing markets are coming into direct conflict with the people's overwhelming desire for freedom. Following is a brief summary of some of the recent events in Africa as the struggle rages on.*

### ZIMBABWE

Despite a change in U.S. "intelligence estimates" which now predict that the racist illegal regime of Ian Smith will be able to hold out in Zimbabwe for years, all indications from Africa

point to the fact that the Smith regime is deteriorating rapidly. The growing unity and strength of the Patriotic Front and the Zimbabwe People's Army is now common knowledge. In addition to this fact the white settler population is diminishing by a rate of about 1% a month making the manpower shortage for a country in the midst of a war increasingly serious. Recently, about 400 large tobacco farmers left the country, deciding to resettle in Brazil. These kinds of occurrences are happening with greater frequency as most of the settlers are beginning to realize that it is only a matter of time before the people will regain control of the country. Also, recently, even the Catholic Church has begun to attack the policies of the Smith Regime, leaving the South African government and a few U.S. corporations as the only available outside support for Smith and his Rhodesian government.

### SOUTH AFRICA

Repression in the country has increased in the aftermath of the Black rebellions which occurred all over the country starting with Soweto last June. The repressive apartheid government has continued to arrest and hold people without charges under Section Six of their Terrorism Act. This law authorizes the police to arrest and detain anyone they believe is a terrorist or has information about terrorists. Under this law



The growing unity and strength of the Patriotic Front and the Zimbabwe People's Army is now common knowledge.





Repression in South Africa has increased in the aftermath of the Black rebellions which occurred all over the country starting with Soweto last year.

almost any act may become an act of terrorism. Detention can be for an indefinite period of time, and no court of law may pronounce upon the validity of any action taken under Section Six. So far 19 deaths have been reported among those who have been detained.

Last week the South African parliament gave its approval of a bill which would eliminate freedom of the press. This bill creates a press council which will have the power to decide what can and cannot be printed in the country and also what information can leave the country via the wire services.

## ANGOLA

Within hours after Angolan President Agostin-



ho Neto revealed plans last week for a major U.S. backed invasion of his country from Zaire, 43 Angolan civilians were brutally slaughtered by anti-MPLA forces near the Zaire border, Sara Rodrigues of *The Guardian* reports.

President Neto had summoned Angola's foreign diplomatic corps to the People's Palace in Luanda to denounce what he termed "intolerable provocations on an almost daily basis" along Angola's northern and southern frontiers. Acts of aggression against Angola, the President said, are being mounted from Zaire in the north and from South African bases in Namibia to the south. Large number of Zairean and South African troops, he noted, are now concentrated on both borders.

In a nationally broadcast statement, Neto charged that a major military operation against Angola — code named "Operation Cobra 77" — was to be mounted in September and October of this year. According to information received by the MPLA, planning for the operation involved the Zairean Army and certain U.S. military officers and personnel, together with Angolan neocolonial forces of the defeated CIA-backed FNLA and the "Cabinda Liberation Front" (FLEC), a creature of Gulf Oil in that petroleum-rich province.

## ZAIRE

Katanganese rebel forces, receiving popular support from the people of their native Shaba (formerly Katanga) province, have established administrative control over the cities they have taken over in the southern part of Zaire, the *Associated Press* reports. Missionary sources and reporters returning from the copper rich province said the Katanganese forces, numbering between 2,000 and 5,000, are setting up a government under an unidentified commissioner and are distributing food to the people.

Despite reports of successes from the reactionary government of Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko, the Katanganese rebels, known as the National Force for the Liberation of the Congo (NFLC), are reported to be meeting little opposition from the poorly-organized, undersupplied Zairean troops (Zaire was formerly called the Belgian Congo). The NFLC forces, who proclaimed a "national uprising of the Congolese people" following their March 8 invasion of Shaba Province from the neighboring People's Republic of Angola, are reported to have control of Mutshatsha, the Shaba Province headquarters of the Zairean army. □



## "Harlan County, U.S.A."

The greed and desires to squeeze a few extra dollars a year out of the hide and lives of each of us who work daily for wages is nothing new and should carry no surprises with it. But still the fifty year fight of coal operators to deny coal miners basic rights of unionization and basic safety in the mines has got to make you pause and think. The movie *Harlan County, U.S.A.* shows this struggle as it continues today and focuses on one of its most historic sites: bloody Harlan.

The struggle for a contract at the Brookside mine in Harlan, Kentucky in 1974 came at a time when new leadership had been voted into the United Mine Workers, and the union took the fight against the Duke Power Co. at Brookside to be a test. National attention was focused on the strike. As the movie shows, at the center of the successful strike was a hard core of miners and miners' wives, black lung victims and miners' widows and children who would not be backed

down.

When court injunctions put men off the picket lines, women took over. When the women were attacked by gun-thugs with machine guns, the men backed them up, guns in hands. The death of one of the strikers, murdered by a scab, seemed in the end to have brought the company to an understanding that the men, women and children of Harlan County "didn't mind dying" if that's what was necessary to win the strike. Duke Power settled.

While remaining objective, the movie shows that there was and continues to be dissatisfaction among the rank and file with union leadership, and perhaps the only conclusion drawn is that the struggle never stops, in the union for democracy, or with the companies for survival and safety. Each new victory only brings you one step closer to the next struggle. □





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Barbara's II Book Store	2907 N. Broadway	Organization of the Northeast	1105 W. Lawrence
Beck's Book Store	1120 W. Wilson	Peggy & Ed's Kitchen	806 W. Webster
Bernal's Barber Shop	4533 N. Sheridan	People's Law Office	110 S. Dearborn
Bill's Newsstand	Milwaukee & Spaulding	Post Office News	37 W. Monroe
Book Box	4812 N. Broadway	Post Office News	4018 N. Cicero
Bread Shop	3400 N. Halsted	Prologue School	1105 W. Lawrence
Centre, Inc.	1116 W. Leland	Red Rose Books	Clark & Greenleaf
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Guild Book Store	1118 W. Armitage	Tranquility Community Center	539 W. North
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Intercommunal Survival Committee	1056 W. Lawrence	Uptown Cut-Rate Liquors	1255 W. Wilson
International Foods	4724 N. Kedzie	Uptown Food Co-op	4742 N. Racine
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